

THE SPIRE

EDWARDS CHURCH *of* NORTHAMPTON
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Vol. 26 No. 9 November 2016

Dear Edwards Church Community,

The approach of Thanksgiving gets my taste buds tingling with anticipation. Right now, just thinking about it, can't you picture – even smell – your favorite dishes? There are favorites that divide families (apple vs. pumpkin vs. pecan for pies) and there are favorites that unite families. In my extended family of in-laws, the unifying force on the holiday groaning board is squash rolls.

Thanksgiving, Christmas, even Easter – no family meal on a major holiday is fully celebrated if it does not include squash rolls. The recipe originates in Fanny Farmer's *Boston Cooking-School Cookbook*, which was given to my wife's maternal grandmother, known as Frannie. She received the book as a wedding present from a good friend in the 1920's because, as even she would say, she was a "slapdash cook" in need of help. Over the years, she became renown for a few simple but satisfying dishes, especially her squash rolls.

When I had my first squash roll, I was initially underwhelmed. After all the build up, I was anticipating something more spectacular, something flashy. This was a simple but satisfying dinner roll, with a subtle undertone of butternut squash. Light for the first few bites, the rolls are surprisingly filling. Frannie combined ultrafine and regular flour, then blended in jars of pureed squash baby food for her dough. Just the right combination of conveniences, while mostly following the cookbook recipe.

In recent years, especially since Frannie died and her great-grandchildren have become young adults, it has been a joy to see and hear their anticipation over the latest batch of squash rolls baking for our special meals. In the 1990's, they would stand on a rickety stool in her kitchen, leaning over the counter to cut out dough with an inverted juice glass, brush on some melted butter and fold them into the baking pan. Since her death, the recipe has been passed around. Uncle Steve has become the undisputed master squash roll baker of our generation and is sharing the recipe with all who ask.

This is how we hand over, take on and adapt traditions. If offered a form of sustenance and shown how to share it, every generation will acquire a taste for something good that feeds us. They will appreciate it and make it their own. Recipes are passed down and adapted. (We now use freshly mashed squash, but still blend ultrafine and regular flour.) This happens in our worship, church school, adult faith formation, outreach and every other ministry of the church. While we practice the faith, we are already handing it on and inviting those who will follow to make it their own.

Bon appetit!

Michael

Edwards Church is an Open and Affirming Congregation:

*We embrace Christ's command to love God with all our hearts and our neighbors as ourselves. Therefore, we welcome **everyone** regardless of ethnic background, economic circumstance, sexual orientation, family configuration, or difference in ability.*

All who seek the love of Christ are welcome to Edwards Church and to share fully in its life and ministry. In response to the Spirit of Christ in our midst, we glorify God and rejoice in the inherent worth, dignity, and gifts of every person as a child of God.

From the Minister of Faith Formation

Dear Members and Friends,

Encountering the world's joys and sufferings, we offer ourselves as instruments of love and justice:

After worship on Sunday, October 16, 17 youth and 6 youth leaders from Edwards Church, St. John's Episcopal Church, and First Churches gleaned between 300 and 350 pounds of peppers (red and green) at Atlas Farm. After gleaning, the peppers were taken to Kate's Kitchen in Holyoke where they were graciously and happily received!



Prayer has been the focus of exploration in the church school lately. Last Sunday, Youth and their leaders created prayer ribbons...check them out on the Faith Formation bulletin board and feel free to add your own prayer ribbon to the board.

Please refer to the flyer about the Opioid Crisis Awareness event to be held at First Churches on October 30th from 12:30 – 3:00 p.m. and let me know if you plan to attend as part of a group representing Edwards Church.

Knowing that the road is long, we choose to walk together:

On Sunday, October 30 (Reformation Sunday) we will recognize a milestone in the faith journey of some of our younger members. Youth in 3rd grade - and older youth who don't already have one - will receive their personalized New Revised Standard Translation of the Bible during Chancel Step time.

Edwards Church has a Circle of Care group committed to accompanying a refugee family as they settle in Northampton. Members of the group have been vetted through Catholic Charities and have committed to at least a 6 month time frame once a family is matched with us. Another round of trainings will take place after the holidays. If you are interested in learning more about what being part of a Circle of Care entails, (and there will be ample opportunity as we accompany a family for 5 years) please be in contact with me.

Longing to find the holy in ourselves and others, we listen for God's still-speaking voice:

The White Privilege: Let's Talk discussion series continues on the following Tuesdays from 7-8:30 in the Edwards Room: 10/25; 11/1; 11/22; 12/13. The curriculum is available for download at <http://privilege.uccpages.org>.

Advent, Christmas & Epiphany – an interactive and intergenerational offering on these three upcoming seasons of the church year will be held Saturday, November 19th from 4-5:30 in Addis Hall. We will conclude with a potluck supper. For planning purposes, please let me know if you plan to attend.

Finding strength in our diversity, we call on all our talents to worship and serve:

Would you like to lead a faith formation offering – intergenerationally or otherwise?
Let's talk!!

*Blessings,
Deb*

YOUTH GROUP

Edwards Church Youth Group's ministry is open to those in Grades 6 -12.

We generally meet on the second and fourth Sunday of the month from 11:30-1:00, with a few exceptions. Youth are always welcome to bring a friend!



ATTENTION

COLLEGE STUDENTS:



Please let us know your campus snail mail and email address. We would love to keep you up to date with what is happening at Edwards, send you a card or two...and of course send a box of cookies decorated by members of the youth group.

Here's what is coming up:

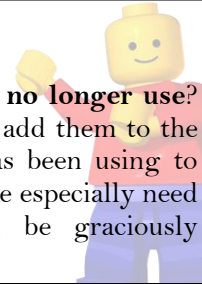
November 13 Interfaith youth gathering; time and place TBA

November 27 Meeting from 11:30 – 1:00

December 4 Hot Chocolate Run/Walk....have you registered for Team Edwards?

December 11 11:30 – 1:00 Cookies for College Students

An Appeal for Legos



Do you have any Legos you no longer use? Deb Moore would be happy to add them to the collection the Middler class has been using to replicate Bible stories. While we especially need Lego people, all Legos will be graciously received.



The MANNA Soup Kitchen desperately needs turkeys this year for its Thanksgiving Day community dinner at which about 400 meals will be served in our Addis Hall and from which about 200 meals will be delivered to the homes of people who cannot get to our church. Our usual main source of turkeys, The Food Bank of Western Mass, has informed us that they may not have any turkeys this year to distribute to the agencies they serve. The reason may be the lingering effect of the bird disease that struck turkey flocks a couple of years ago. This year we are serving only turkey at the Thanksgiving meal instead of turkey and ham - we will have ham at the Christmas dinner. We will need about 40 turkeys of average weight about 15 pounds. This year the turkeys will be cooked and carved at UMass in a day and a half, and the carved meat will be delivered to Edwards Church on Thanksgiving morning. We used to have to cook and carve them at St. John's Episcopal Church and Edwards Church over a three-day period.

Carl Erickson

Outreach With Our Building

One of the ways we connect with and serve the local community is by accommodating a number of groups that need an affordable place to gather. These groups are as diverse as: the Northampton Parents Center; MANNA community meals; support groups like AA, the Augustine Fellowship and the Valley Men's Support Group; and the River Valley Sangha (a Buddhist meditation and learning group). Starting soon, our outreach will include providing space to two new groups: a Girl Scout Brownie troop and the Hampshire County District Attorney's Recovery Support Center.

The Recovery Support Center will operate three afternoon's per week, from 1-5 p.m. in the ground floor meeting rooms, offering recovery support to individuals in recovery from opioid addiction. Like many other facets of our outreach, we were asked to help and are pleased to be able to do so. "Encountering the world's joys and suffering, we offer ourselves as instruments of love and justice."

Mindfulness in Relationship

3-Part Series: January, February, March

Sunday from 4:00-5:30 (dates to be announced soon)

Please join us as we explore our relational lives from the perspective of mindfulness. We will consider what it would be like to see ourselves and others more deeply and to be able to bring increasing compassion to what we find. In discussing the tender and powerful topic of relationships, we will think together of family, friends, neighbors, strangers, and even those that (in our oh-so-human-way) we find challenging, frustrating, and hurtful.

Mindfulness offers us a path toward wholesome relationships. It speaks to our “longing to find the holy in ourselves and others,” as expressed in our vision statement.

Please contact Linda Vincent or Deb Moore if you are interested in attending one or more of these gatherings.

COME TO PIZZA 'N PIE CHARTS!

The entire congregation is invited to a fun, fall gathering on

Sunday, November 6

Immediately following worship service

Hosted by the Stewardship Committee and the Diaconate



Come to enjoy delicious Filo's pizza, salad and desserts

while learning about the church's 2017 budget in a fun and informative way!

If your last name begins with A-M, you are invited to bring a DESSERT TO SHARE

If your last name begins with N-Z, you are invited to bring a side or SALAD TO SHARE

Mak'hela: The Jewish Chorus of Western Mass.

Performing to celebrate
Thirty years of the
Manna Soup Kitchen

Sunday, November 6th, 3 pm at
Congregation B'nai Israel
253 Prospect St., Northampton

Ice cream after the concert,
donated by Herrell's Ice Cream

No reservations or tickets.

A free will donation will be
requested to benefit
Manna Soup Kitchen

This month we continue our descriptions of Edwards Church boards and committees.

Deacons

Ever wonder what it would be like to be a Deacon for Edwards Church? It takes 12 Deacons to make our duties run smoothly. Here are some of the responsibilities of the Deacons at Edwards church. We assist in planning worship and arrange lay leadership for the services- greeters, lectors, flowers, etc. We prepare, set up and serve Communion each month. We discuss with our minister regarding the spiritual life of the congregation. We assist with Baptisms. We help with visitation to our members unable to come to church. We oversee fellowship every Sunday and look for opportunities to extend that fellowship beyond Sunday. We help to welcome new members and assist at their reception. We host the annual Advent Dinner. Please consider serving as a Deacon. We look for a two year commitment and meet once a month, but the meeting time/day can be changed by the committee and much is accomplished via email!

The diaconate board would like you to consider volunteering for this rewarding role. Speak to Tom Derr (tderr@smith.edu) or leave a message at the church office if you are interested—and thank you!

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

C. Rutherford Platt
Grace Lively
Elizabeth Young
Krisinda S. Semb
Heidi Kinner
Susan Banas
Paul C. Gustavson



Louise P. Montague
William Roeder
Samuel A. Grant
Jody Kinner
Lindsey Ann Wells
Susan Anderson

Note: In an effort to protect the digital identities of our community members, we will no longer publish dates of birth in the newsletter. Please contact the church office directly if you would like to obtain this information.

Is your birthday missing? We'd like to include everyone, so please call the church office and let us know your birthday!

A Word About Fellowship Time

We often say, and experience, that Edwards church is a community, even a family, that one of its strengths is the friendship we celebrate each Sunday (and at other times, too) when we gather for worship. Many of us enjoy extending that friendly community in the fellowship time after worship, when the coffee is hot, the snacks are abundant (mostly), and the conversation relaxed.

Of course it doesn't happen automatically. The deacons set things up, our sexton Dave Jenkins readies the coffee, and ... YOU do the rest. The snack department depends entirely on your contributions. We try to spread this appeal out, so that only one quarter of the congregation gets it each Sunday; but when your part of the alphabet comes around, we hope that some of you (a few will do nicely) will bring a little something to share.

Grateful as always,
Tom Derr,
for the Diaconate

November 6- Last names with A-D
November 13 - Last names with E-K
November 20 - Last names with L-S
November 27 - Last names with T-Z



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS CALENDAR

All Sunday services are at 10 AM:



Nov. 27 – First Sunday of Advent (Volunteers to help set up Christmas Tree after worship)

Dec. 3 – Saturday at 4 PM, weekly worship, followed by Advent Dinner and Carol Sing

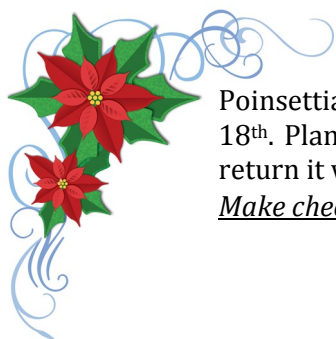
Dec. 4 – Hot Chocolate Run. No Sunday service, but please do support Team Edwards' participating in the annual fund raiser for Safe Passage.

Dec. 11 – Lessons and Carols

Dec. 18 – Christmas Pageant

Dec. 24 – 7 PM, Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Dec. 25 – Christmas Day, no Sunday service



TIME TO ORDER POINSETTIAS

Poinsettias will decorate our chancel for two Sundays in Advent: December 11th and December 18th. Plants are \$10.00 each. If you wish to place an order, please fill out the form below and return it with your payment to the church office by **Monday, December 5th**.

Make checks payable to Edwards Church and write "poinsettias" on the memo line.

Edwards Church
297 Main Street
Northampton, MA 01060

Ordered by: _____

Phone: _____

Number of plants: _____

Total cost (@ \$ 10.00 each): _____

Please include payment with your order

In Memory Of:

OR

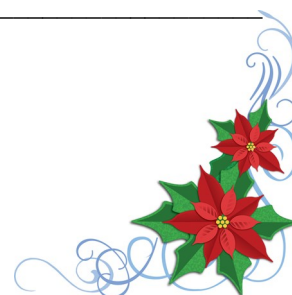
In Honor Of:

Given by (if different from "ordered by" name): _____

Please check one:

____ I will remove the plant(s) after worship on December 18.

____ Please deliver plant(s) to an "at home" member or friend.



DRAFT – Edwards Church Council Minutes

October 12, 2016

Voting members in attendance: Leon Drzewianowski (Moderator); Nancy Flickinger (Vice-moderator); Kimela Webb (Clerk); Scott Anderson (Trustees); Harriet Smith (P-C Relations); Alan Schneider (Music); Carl Erickson (Investment); Maryann Bankman (Member-at-large)

Absent: Tom Derr (Deacons); Carolyn Dion (Outreach); Heather Bell (Stewardship); Darlene Buttrick (Deacons)

Staff in attendance: Michael McSherry, Debra Moore, David Kidwell, Marc Waller, Heather Dandy

Meeting opened at 7:00 with a music prayer from David Kidwell.

Correction to September Minutes – add Heather Dandy under staff.

Minutes of September Council meeting unanimously approved.

Joys and Concerns of Staff and Committees:

- Joy: Tom Derr was able to step in on short notice and it went well.
- Joy: 12 people talking about White Privilege.
- Joy: Alan & Heather celebrated their 17th anniversary with a trip to NY.
- Joy: The 1st quote for repairing the front steps has been received.

Questions on committee reports:

- Trustees – electrical for coffee pot. Marney Electric has the part (new breaker) on order for the panel.
- Financial – so far having a good year, mostly because of endowment monies being up. We may have a small surplus, but pledges are slightly behind.
- Social Investment – no update. Next meeting Monday, October 17, 2016.
- Music Committee – has not had a meeting this month.

Vision Implementation – working on next steps.

Community Based Socially Responsible Investment

Next Meeting Monday, October 17, 2016.

Christmas Schedule – will go in Spire and may be put into bulletin.

Open & Affirming Statement – Want to be sure the church community is involved. If it makes us nervous we should talk about it. Talking about it can be awkward regardless of gender identity. More challenging than words on a paper or putting up signs. We should talk more, put proposed language out there and have multiple meetings and discussion. How people feel matters. Comment made to do it right, even if it takes longer before we vote. Don't want to push it through. Could have a special meeting in March for some of these important things.

Bathroom Signage and Gender Identity – will have to go through the same process as the Open & Affirming Statement. Would appreciate extra time to have it be done well.

Worship Feedback Sessions – Group understood what they were asked to do. Questions were helpful. It is easier to have specific questions to respond back to. It is very helpful to have some ground rules to keep things focused. Question asked if it would work if it was done with the congregations and the response was positive. Suggestion made to have a regular cycle so people would get more comfortable with it. Plan for the next one is to get a mixture of age ranges and points of view. Flow of meeting was good. No one felt rushed, but at the end of the meeting felt it was too short as people had more to say. 90 minutes seemed better than a one hour meeting.

New Business:

Circles of Care 6-8 individuals or families to help acclimate refugees to Northampton. Three training sessions coming up. Catholic Charities in conversation with mayor and schools and social services. Still need housing. This is an interfaith city-wide effort.

Nominating Committee: Carl Erickson and Maryann Bankman to co-chair. Vice Moderator, Clerk, and Collector are key positions to fill.

Memorial Committee: Question on one council at large is to head memorial committee. There are supposed to be three members: 1 Council at large; 1 Deacon; 1 Trustee. Suggestion was made to have memorial committee look at memorial book.

The next Council meeting will be held on November 9 at 7 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 with a closing prayer from Deb.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Dandy, Administrative Assistant

NOVEMBER 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
		7pm AF 7pm Trustees Mtg. 7pm White Privilege: Let's Talk	12 pm Bible Study 6pm MANNA 7pm FF Mtg.	7pm MANNA Board of Directors Mtg. 7pm Choir Rehearsal	6:30pm AA	11:30am MANNA
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
8:45am Bible Study 9am Choir Rehearsal 10am Communion 11:15 Fellowship (A-D) 5pm Edwards @ Cathedral in the Night 11:15 Music Committee 11:30 Children's Music Rehearsal	6pm RVS 7pm VMSG 7pm Diaconate Meeting	4:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 7pm AF 7pm VMSG	12 pm Bible Study 5pm Board of Friends of the Homeless 6pm MANNA 7pm Council Mtg.	7pm Choir Rehearsal	Veteran's Day – Church Office Closed 6:30pm AA	11:30am MANNA
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
8:45am Bible Study 9am Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 11:15 Fellowship (E-K) 11:30 Children's Music Rehearsal TBA – Youth Group	2pm PVIRAG 6pm RVS 7pm VMSG	7pm AF 7pm CE Community of Practice	12 pm Bible Study 6pm MANNA	6 pm Members in Discernment 7pm Choir Rehearsal	6:30pm AA	11:30am MANNA 4pm Advent Christmas Epiphany Intergenerational
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
8:45am Bible Study 9am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Hymn Sing 10am Worship 11:15 Fellowship (L-S) 11:30 Children's Music Rehearsal 11:30 PCRC	6pm RVS 7pm VMSG	4:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 7pm AF 7pm VMSG 7pm White Privilege: Let's Talk	12 pm Bible Study 6pm MANNA 7pm Outreach Mtg.	Thanksgiving – Church Office Closed	6:30pm AA	11:30am MANNA
27	28	29	30			
8:45am Bible Study 9am Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 11:15 Fellowship (T-Z) 11:30 Youth Group	6pm RVS 7pm VMSG 7pm Labyrinth Walk	7pm AF	12 pm Bible Study 6pm MANNA	Abbreviations: AA = Alcoholics Anonymous AF = Augustine Fellowship NPC = Northampton Parents Center	PVIRAG= Pioneer Valley Interfaith Refugee Action Group RVS= River Valley Sangha VMSG = Valley Men's Support Group	