

There Is Life After Christmas

by *Erin Swank*

What a great winter it is proving to be! It is hard to believe that Christmas has come and gone, we were blessed with a short warm snap, there has been just enough snow on the ground to have fun but not get tired of it, and of course the chance to reconnect with people during the holidays. As I look at the calendar, I am happy to see that the months left in the season promise to be full of moments like these in the life of our church.



I know for our young people that this promises to be true. Trip deposits are coming due for some amazing summer trips to Centrifuge Camp in North Carolina and Jonathan Creek in Kentucky. Thank you to everyone who purchased pizza kits towards these trips. We raised over \$800 that will go towards our sponsors and young people's trip costs. Our church family will have another chance to help the youth by gathering around a table and eating some delicious food at our Annual Chicken Dinner. This is a great event, because it gives us the opportunity to serve the community, volunteer together, support and encourage the youth's spiritual development and of course eat! We would love to have you volunteer your help on Sunday, February 13. This is a great way to get to know people and have fun doing it. If you can't do that, please come out and eat, and spread the word to your friends and neighbors. We can't do this without you! The high school students will attend a weekend conference, Fire Up, in Troy, IL. We will worship, play, and deepen relationships. This is an amazing local conference, and we invite you to pray for all the youth who attend.

I don't often have the opportunity to say thank you publicly for all the ways you help and bless the lives of our young people. You support them by saying hello to them and showing an interest in their lives as you talk with them, you pray for them and their relationship with God, you give financially to support events that help them spiritually grow, and you provide them a place where they can come to learn, grow and be challenged by God and discover his call on their lives. I look forward to the coming months and how God will continue to change us as we serve together.

Dear Eden Church Family

by Pastor John

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace”

1 Peter 4:10

By the time this newsletter arrives in your hands, Eden Church will have wrapped up its review of the 3 Vision points of our Church Constitution. You will have heard messages on each Vision point and will hopefully be thinking about our common mission as a Church. You will have heard a sermon on our third Vision statement which is:



“To help people become responsible ministers in Christ's Church.”

I trust that by the time you receive this newsletter, you will know what that vision statement means and will fully support our congregation’s mission to prepare people for ministry.

It is my hope that Eden Church will excel in its ability to help you, its members, to identify the ways you can best share in God’s work by using your gifts for ministry. Here’s one specific thing we have planned to do so far that will help us on our way. On Sunday, March 6th Eden Church will offer an **Eden Activity Fair** in our Fellowship Hall. This fair will begin at 9:00 AM and will end at noon. The purpose of this fair is to help our congregation know of each of the ministry opportunities of Eden Church. We believe that spiritual growth is tied to joyful service and we want you to find your place for ministry at Eden Church.

There will be display tables and representatives from each of the choirs, small groups, ministry teams and committees of Eden Church. You will have your opportunity to walk around, to ask questions, to receive brochures and to sign up for the areas you believe God is leading you to serve.

Watch for more information about this event in the weeks ahead. If you have any questions about our ministry opportunities or would like to help, please contact the Church office at 656-4330.

Remember, the Eden Activity Fair will run concurrent with Sunday School and Worship on that Sunday morning. Please make sure you give yourself enough time in your day to walk through and see all the current ways our congregation is serving the cause of Christ. This event will only be successful if each of you makes plan to attend. You never know, your greatest service to God might just be around the corner.

Youth News

by Erin Swank



Summer Trip

We have sent in our official registration for our summer trips. The high school youth are going to Centrifuge in North Carolina on June 26th – July 3rd. The cost for the trip is \$330. If you wish to go, your \$50 deposit is due on Sunday, January 23rd in order to guarantee your spot. If there are spots left with the camp, you will have until the end of February. This camp will allow you to meet youth from around the country, bond with our group and ultimately deepen your relationship with God. The middle school group will be heading back to Jonathan Creek for an amazing week of camp. This camp will allow them to explore fun ways to enjoy God's creation (mountain biking, water front activities, ultimate Frisbee, crafts, missions and other things). The \$75 deposit is due on Sunday, February 6. The cost for the trip is \$310. If you are interested in this great camp experience, please contact Erin at 656-4330 or eswank@eden-ucc.org for more information.



Chicken Dinner

The youth would like to invite everyone to attend the Annual Youth Chicken Dinner on Sunday, February 13th from 11:00 AM – 1:30 PM. Tickets are \$8.50 for adults, and \$4.00

for children ages 3 – 10, which will get you chicken, green beans, mashed potatoes with gravy, coleslaw, applesauce, and bread all served family style. This event is one of our biggest fundraisers, but we are hoping to do even better this year. In order to do this we **need** people who are willing to work on Sunday, set up on Saturday, bring desserts, and purchase tickets to join us. Please look for bulletin inserts for volunteer sign up opportunities or call Erin in the church office at 656-4330. Remember, if you

are a youth going on a summer trip, you and an adult must volunteer at the dinner in order to receive money towards your trip. Thank you in advance for all of your support.

Fire Up Conference

The high school youth will again be attending Fire Up (www.fire-up.org) in Troy, IL. This is a weekend long conference from Friday, Feb. 25th – Sunday the 27th. The theme for the weekend is "Glow." This is a great weekend to get away, get to know one another and get closer to God. The cost is only \$40, if you turn in your forms (located on the youth bulletin board) and money to me by Wednesday, February 9th. After that the cost will increase to \$60. We will meet at the church at 6:00 PM to pack up and head to Troy, IL. You will need to bring a sleeping bag, pillow, personal items, Bible, a pen, all of which will fit into one bag. The only thing you will need money for are sodas/snacks, T-shirts, Cds and other like items available for purchase. We will stop and eat lunch (included in the cost) together before returning to the church between 1:30-2:00 PM.

DID YOU KNOW?

You will never have to miss another Eden Church sermon! Most of the Eden sermons for 2010 are available on the Eden Church web site at <http://eden-ucc.com/learn-grow/sermons/>. New sermons are updated weekly. The sermons can be read or there is the option (at the bottom of each printed sermon) to click on the "Sermon Multimedia" control to listen to the sermon. Clicking on the Scripture reference at the top of each sermon will open a new window to www.biblegateway.com where you can read or listen to the Bible passage. The Eden Cyber Ministry Team hopes you will use and enjoy this new feature of the Eden web site.

“Fleeting or Sustained?”

by Seth Bush

²⁴ A person can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in their own toil. This too, I see, is from the hand of God, ²⁵ for without him, who can eat or find enjoyment? ²⁶ To the person who pleases him, God gives wisdom, knowledge and happiness, but to the sinner he gives the task of gathering and storing up wealth to hand it over to the one who pleases God. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind. -Eccl. 2: 24-26



Life is full of things that fight and vie for our attention...jobs, relationships, material comforts and a variety of other things. We think, “If I only had this, I would be happy,” or “If I could meet this person, I would have a break.” Yet, relationships come and go, and possessions rot and fade. King Solomon knew this fact as well if not better than most. Yet what was he left with at the end of his days, “..for without him (God), who can eat or find enjoyment?”

We may think we have a good plan for our lives or we may even think we have already lived a life that is full of good things; however, have we filled our life with good fleeting things, or have we filled our life with the only One, Jesus Christ? This is the ONLY One who can fulfill and sustain.

We are only a few weeks into 2011 and yet statistics say that most of us have given up on our New Year’s resolutions. We have found them to be fleeting, too difficult or just silly. This year, make a commitment to a relationship that never ends in failure; make a commitment to Jesus Christ, the one who fulfills you all the rest of your days! Find a group here at Eden to enjoy, learn, and grow together with in Jesus Christ: a Sunday School class, Wednesday morning Men’s Bible Study, Wednesday Evening Adult Bible Study, Youth Group, College Group, one of the many choirs, or another one of the groups here at Eden.

Health & Wellness Opportunities

by Joyce Gusewelle



- Painless ultrasound screenings can help you avoid a stroke

A stroke screening by Life Line Screening is coming to Eden on Monday, February 28th . Pre-registration is required. To register call 1-800-237-1851

Four Facts you need to know about stroke prevention

- Stroke is a leading cause of death and permanent disability
- 4 out of 5 stroke victims have no apparent warning signs
- 80% of strokes can be prevented

Save the date for the next Blood Drive on Sunday, March 27th from 7:30 AM-12:00 PM in Fellowship Hall.



Meet the New Guy!

by Jake Gosselin

Hello, my name is Jake, nice to meet you! I was recently hired to be the Director of Fine Arts at Eden, and I am thrilled to be a part of your church family. Derby, Vermont is my hometown, and I'm currently studying music and religion at Greenville College. I look forward to joining you in worshiping the Lord through the arts and getting to know you through the fellowship of music-making. Eden has music ensembles appropriate for all ages and genre preferences, so I strongly encourage you to participate in the one(s) best suited for you! For more information regarding these ensembles and rehearsal times, please visit Eden's website or contact me at jgosselin@eden-ucc.org or 656-4330.



"Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." - Ephesians 5:19-20

Hello and Farewell

The Eden Church Council would like to thank our out going members Rusty Burian, Steve Woods and Stu Bardelmeier for all their hard work for the past three years. We would like to welcome new members Mary Slaby, Darrell Duewer and Jeff Eddinger. The council officers for 2011 are as follows: Mindy McSparin, President; Nancy Kruckeberg, Vice-President; Darrell Duewer, Secretary; Jeff Eddinger, Treasurer and Reid Highlander, Financial Secretary.



PRESENCE OF GOD

by Pastor Michael J. Marx, Sr.

Have you felt it? Have you sensed the presence of God in our worship services at Eden Church? For a number of months some dedicated people have been attending a Monday evening prayer meeting in the Eden Sanctuary. The prayers have included asking God for renewal and revival in our church. We have prayed for our congregation to increase in our love for God, to have a spirit of repentance, to have a positive response to the ministry of the Word at Eden, to be sanctified by the Word of God and to willingly follow Jesus with our lives.



We have prayed for the power of the Holy Spirit to lead us to have concern for outreach to lost and hurting people. We have prayed for God to lead us in faithful obedience to God's will for us individually and as a congregation.

Are we willing to believe that God is answering our prayers? Are we open to a renewed movement of God in our church? I want to challenge each one of us, beginning with myself, to be more faithful in personal prayer and corporate worship, to be dedicated to Bible study and meditation, to seek to be sensitive to the leading of God's Spirit and to be obedient to all that God leads us to do.

I believe God will answer our prayers. Will you join us in Monday evening prayers? Will you pray for a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Eden United Church of Christ?

DAY OF DISCIPLESHIP: You are invited to the Illinois South Conference Day of Discipleship. This is a spiritual and educational day offered by the Illinois South Conference on Saturday, March 12, 2011, from 9:15 AM to 3:00 PM. Many workshops on the theme of Faith Formation will be available. This year it will be held at Columbia St. Paul UCC, 127 St. Paul Street, Columbia, Illinois. I will present a workshop entitled "**Spiritual Practices**" at the Day of Discipleship. This workshop will explore how historic practices such as prayer, Bible study, fasting and Sabbath-keeping contribute to the formation of one's faith.

You may register by February 18th for \$15.00. Registration from February 19th to March 4th is \$20.00. This includes the keynote address, a choice of three workshops and lunch. Registration forms plus additional information are available in the Eden Church office and on the ISC web site at www.iscucc.org.

Directory

Eden Church Members & Friends Business & Skills Directory

Do you have a business that you would like to make known to the Eden congregation?
Do you have a skill or hobby that you could teach to others? If so, please complete the form that is enclosed with this newsletter and return it to the church office by **Sunday, February 13th, 2011**. The Eden Membership Committee will be updating the Directory and publishing it soon after that. We hope you will participate!

Thank You

The staff at Eden would like to thank the congregation for their generosity towards us during the Christmas season. So many of you dropped in to say hello, offer us delicious baked goods and give gifts in secret. We all feel so blessed to be serving alongside of you, and your support means so very much to us, not only at this time, but year round!! May you all experience God's leading and blessings as we serve Him together this year.

Eden Church Staff

A special heartfelt thanks to our church family for the prayers, emails, cards and support during our mother, Geraldine Burian's passing. A special thanks to Pastor John and Pastor Mike for their prayers and visits with mom.

Rusty and Sheryl B.

Dustin and Amy B.

Your Thanksgiving generosity is one of our greatest gifts. Providing turkey baskets with all the trimmings for 300 families gives us all pause to count our own blessings. Having Eden in our midst has always been vital to achieving our mission of helping low income families in this area. We would be lost without you. Each year those 300 baskets help the 48 residents of the May Building and the 45 Head Start Families, as well our as regular clients. They are all so grateful and so are we. Thank you for all you do for others.

Judy M.


Thank you for your generous gift to help support the men and women of Emmaus Homes. With the help of friends, like you, we are able to continue to provide services and offer ways of enriching the lives of the men and women whom we serve.

Lisa D., Executive Director

Thank you so much for loving on me with all the kind words, cards, gifts, donations, flowers and the special video presentation. You made me feel very special and I appreciate that so very much! I am excited about my new career, but will miss being on the staff at Eden. Blessings to all.

Emily O.

Going Green: Starting January 2011 we will be offering you the option to receive your newsletter by email only. If you are interested send an email to Sue at ssperduto@eden-ucc.org and let her know you would like to receive your newsletter electronically .



From darkness to light

In the Bible, God speaks often about light and darkness. He gives us much instruction about which path we should choose.

1. Good	Righteousness
2. Death	Children
3. Go	Life
4. Evil	Come
5. Adults	Bad

Match the opposites and then write the word in the right-hand column in the correct blanks to finish each verse.

"When your eyes are good, your whole body also is full of light. But when they are _____, your body also is full of darkness." Luke 11:34, NIV
(1)

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of _____." John 8:12, NIV
(2)

"I have _____ into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness." John 12:46, NIV
(3)

"For what do _____ and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?" 2 Corinthians 6:14, NIV
(4)

"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as _____ of light." Ephesians 5:8, NIV
(5)



United Church of Christ

903 N. Second Street
Edwardsville, IL 62025

Periodical
Paid at
Edwardsville, IL

Worship Services
8:00 AM Traditional
9:15 & 10:30 AM
Contemporary
Sunday School
9:15 AM
Classes for all ages

Church Office 656-4330
Hours M-Th 8:00 AM-4:00 PM
Friday 8:00 AM-3:00 PM
Fax 656-4384
www.eden-ucc.org

"For the man who uses well, what he is given, shall be given more"

Thank you for contributions to the Glen Carbon-Edwardsville Food Pantry which serves those in need in our Community. For more information call the Pantry at 656-7506, 656-2963 or 656-8965.

Suggested Donations:
Canned Meat, Pasta and Vegetables
Containers are found in the Annex and Narthex of the Church

The *Eden Leaflet* will be published on March 21, 2011
All submissions must include a name and phone number, and
be received in the office by March 10, 2011. We reserve the
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