

How Can We As A Congregation Help?

by Joyce Guswelle

According to Katrina Gay, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Director of Communications, many families and individuals affected by mental illness acknowledge faith as a key component in their recovery and experience. However, a recent study sponsored by Baylor University reveals that mental illness within a family frequently damages the family's connection to its church.

Although the church congregation did not completely remove support from the families, the study found that families affected by mental illness ranked church as number two in their priority list of needs, while families without mental illness ranked it 42. The study highlights that church communities do not fulfill the needs of congregants and often overlook families affected by mental illness, despite the needs the families have for support and assistance. Hence, while mental illness is prevalent within a congregation, it is also nearly invisible.

So how can Eden United Church of Christ be a caring congregation? The first step is education. Attend the seminars that are being offered. There are details elsewhere in the Leaflet about "Living with Autism" October 27. Another way to be a caring congregation is to be intentional in seeking ways to make this happen. I would like to organize a Mental Health Team here at Eden. If you have a heart for mental illness, either through your profession or a family or life experience, please consider being a part of this team. Contact me at 656-4330 or jguswelle@eden-ucc.org if you are interested.

We will then explore what commitment to this ministry we would like to make and how we can be more welcoming in integrating persons with mental illness into the life of Eden. This is Jesus' commandment in Luke 10: 27b "Love your neighbor as yourself". We are brought up to be strong, self-sufficient and independent people. It is hard to ask for help, and we often keep our struggles hidden. But God wants us to care for one another – and allow others to care for us in our time of need!

"People with mental problems are our neighbors. They are members of our congregations, members of our families: they are everywhere in this country. If we ignore their cries for help, we will be continuing to participate in the anguish from which those cries of help come. A problem of this magnitude will not go away. Because it will not go away, and because of our spiritual commitments, we are compelled to take action." Rosalynn Carter

Words from the Pastor

by Pastor John



We now live in an age of emails, instant messaging, cell phones and news on demand. Therefore I assume that many of you will have heard this news before you picked up my article to read. The news I want to share with you is that change is coming to Eden Church. Our Council members and pastors have decided to change our Sunday morning worship schedule.

Beginning Sunday, January 8th Eden Church's Sunday schedule will be as follows:

8:00 AM	Traditional Worship
9:15 AM	Education Hour for all ages
10:30 AM	Contemporary Worship

The Council made these changes in the hopes that everyone at Eden, children and adults alike would attend the Education Hour and then the worship service of their choice. We feel that attending the education hour and participating in regular worship is essential in helping our Church to develop dedicated followers of Jesus Christ.

Why you might ask would we make such a drastic decision? Why upset the applecart and remove the one service that allows parents the freedom to attend worship without having to deal with the potential distractions of small children? Aren't three services better than two? Can't we do more good if we are reaching more people in three services, especially if some people get upset and choose to leave over this decision?

This week I took an old book off the shelf called, *The Master Plan of Evangelism* by Robert Coleman. It's an intentional look at the method Jesus used to reach the world. I read it over 10 years ago and decide to visit it again. What I read shocked me and confirmed why we needed to make this decision. Let me share the following with you:

"It all started by Jesus calling a few men to follow Him. This revealed immediately the direction His evangelistic strategy would take. His concern was not with programs to reach the multitudes, but with men whom the multitudes would follow." (p. 21)

When I read this it got me to thinking, "Is Eden Church developing women and men whom the multitudes will follow?" Another way to think about this is to ask, "How many people are maturing in their faith at Eden to the point that they are making a significant impact on the community for Jesus Christ?" Our methodology must follow that of Jesus in developing individuals whom the multitudes will follow. I believe our new structure will better make that happen.

As a result of this schedule change I intend to offer a new Sunday school class that will meet in the Sanctuary at 9:15 AM. We will begin by looking at the beliefs of major religions in the world and how they compare to the Christian faith we profess. Why bother? Because we have a mission to win the world to Jesus Christ and to his Gospel. We can only do so as we understand the beliefs of our neighbors. I'm offering my class in the


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Youth News

by Erin Swank



Bible Sunday



On Sunday, October 30 the church will be presenting Bibles to our first & eighth grade students at the 9:15 church service. If your child is in either of these grades, please make sure you arrive at Sunday school a little early that day. We will be gathering as a group and then attending to the service. The 2-year-old children will also be receiving Bibles in their class that morning. Please join us in celebrating this important milestone, as well as praying that the words of Scripture will awaken and deepen their faith.

Summer Trips

The youth group summer mission trips have been announced and our first fundraiser has begun. If you are a youth and want more information about where we are going, please contact Erin at 656-4330 or eswank@eden-ucc.org. Please check the church bulletin to find out how you can support the youth, as even now they begin preparing for the summer.

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Bake Sale

The youth have been busy planning their own service project. In early November they will be hosting a bake sale on a Sunday morning. A few days before the sale we will gather for dinner and begin baking in the church kitchen. Each of the youth will be asked to bring specific ingredients to share the cost of the event. The baked goods will then be sold and the proceeds will go to a charity of the youth group's choosing. Please stay tuned for more information and how you can support this important endeavor.

Raise The Praise 10th Anniversary Concert

Friday, November 18 – 7:00PM

Saturday, November 19 – 7:00PM

Sunday, November 20 – 3:00PM

The Wildey Theatre

**Supported by: Eden United Church Of Christ*

A ticket is required for entry

For ticket reservations:

rtptickets@bonniburns.com

or (618) 407-3520

Ticket donation request: \$15-\$50

Please make donations payable to Beverly Farm

Raise The Praise is a concert that features contemporary-Christian & gospel music, performed by a 75 member choir, 9 piece band, and supported by a technical crew of 15. All participants volunteer their time and talent. You don't want to miss this exciting and heart-warming event, filled with inspiring and uplifting music.

All ticket donations benefit Beverly Farm Foundation in Godfrey, IL, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, and home to nearly 400 residents with developmental disabilities. Beverly Farm is a planned community designed to enhance the lives of residents, develop their life skills and provide the required medical care and a variety of therapies. Situated on 220 acres with an abundance of green space, Beverly Farm is a pleasant place to live and work. Your donation will be used to further the enhance the lives of all the residents who call Beverly Farm home.

Ben's Hope Foundation is a volunteer organization that raises money for Beverly Farm's residents. Ben's Hope Foundation has donated nearly \$250,000 to Beverly Farm since it was founded in 2001. All proceeds from Raise The Praise go directly to the needs of the Beverly Farm residents.

Sunday School News

by Joann McCoy

We are in need of the following teachers, helpers and shepherds: a 4 year old class helper beginning January 2012; one COOL teacher; two Shepherds for COOL and one or two people that would be available to fill in as needed. If you are able to help with any of these positions, please contact Joann at jmccoy@eden-ucc.org or 656-4330.

This year's Sunday School Christmas Program will be on Sunday, December 18th at the 10:30 AM church service. All the children have their parts and are working hard. Take a moment to ask your children or grandchildren what part they are playing this year and help them practice to make this a great Christmas service.



	<p style="text-align: center;">Worship by Phone</p> <p>The Phone Worship service offered by Eden Church had technical problems for several weeks, but these have been fixed. You can listen to any of the three morning worship services on the telephone by dialing 656-4330 and following the voice prompts.</p>
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hopes of growing men and women whom the multitudes will follow. If you are an adult that doesn't currently attend a Sunday school class, mark your calendar and make plans to join me on January 8th.

What about parents with small children? How can parents handle the distractions of small children and still get something out of Sunday morning? I believe we can learn something from our ancestors. Parents from generations before us were able to bring children to worship and to teach them to engage God, to sing, to listen and to learn. They strove to do so because they understood that their children needed to see their consistent example of worship before the Lord. They knew they could do so because the Church community welcomed children into the worship service and saw them as vital participants in the worship of God. I think Eden can help our families with young children by encouraging them, praying for them and by offering to help them as needed. This has the potential of further uniting us as a "family rooted in Christ" as we seek to develop multigenerational worship before the Lord.

I hope you will commit this change to prayer, that you will support it and that you will seek to grow in faith and become a person that many would follow in faith.

Health and Wellness

by Joyce Gusewelle

Living with Autism will be presented by Aaron Likens on Thursday, October 27, 2011 at 7:00 PM in Classrooms B & C. Aaron is the Community Education Specialist for Touch-Point Autism Services, St. Louis, MO. Susan S., Executive Director of the Illinois Center for Autism, will



also share some resources available. If you or someone you know would like to know more about how the Autism Spectrum Disorder mind works, plan to attend. Questions and RSVP to Joyce at 656-4330 or jgusewelle@eden-ucc.org.

GriefShare



GriefShare sessions will begin Tuesday, October 25. It is a special weekly seminar and support group for people who are grieving the death of someone close to them. It's a place to be around people who understand what you are feeling. Each session will include a DVD featuring professionals on bereavement.

GriefShare will meet from 7:00 – 8:30 PM in the Parlor. There is a one time fee of \$15.00 which includes the workbook for the sessions.

Tuesday, November 8, we will see the “Surviving the Holidays” DVD. You are welcome to join us whether you attend these sessions, have attended sessions in the past or have not attended any sessions.

For further information please contact Joyce 656-4330 or jgusewelle@eden-ucc.org.



DivorceCare

Divorce Care sessions are being held on Monday evenings from 7:00 – 8:30 PM in the

Parlor. It is a weekly seminar and support group just for people who are separated or divorced. Each DivorceCare session will include a DVD featuring top experts on divorce and separation issues. There will also be an opportunity to interact with others who are living through similar experiences.

The sessions for each group are “self-contained” so feel free to join us or invite a friend to join. There is a one time fee of \$15.00 which includes the workbook for the sessions.

Monday, November 14, we will see the “Surviving the Holidays” DVD. You are welcome to join us whether you have attended these sessions, have attended sessions in the past, or have not attended any sessions. For further information please contact Joyce Gusewelle at 656-4330 or jgusewelle@eden-ucc.org.

American Red Cross Blood Drive

When you make a blood donation, you join a very select group. Only 38% of Americans are eligible to donate and of those only 8% donate. That is only 3 out of every 100 people. One in 10 persons entering a hospital needs blood. Your blood donation can make the difference between an adequate supply and a shortage. So please consider donating at our upcoming Blood Drive. No tricks – only treats!!



**Sunday, October 30
7:30 AM until noon
Fellowship Hall**

*The need is constant.
The gratification is instant.
Give blood.*

Reflections on Worship

by Jake Gosselin

The next time you're at an Eden worship service, look around you and count how many people you see who are between the ages of 20-35. On a good week, I might actually use both hands to count that number. Where are all the young adults? Obviously, they are not at Eden. Don't worry, I'm not going rant about ways in which our church needs to be more "relevant" or "contemporary" to attract younger generations. Such evangelism techniques can be effective and necessary for communicating across generational barriers, but at Eden our problem is much more fundamental than not being a "hip" church. Rather, our problem stems from a Sunday morning routine that deprives our children of worship.



Have we ever considered the consequences of segregating parents from children during the 9:15 hour? I'm convinced that this is a huge factor for the incredibly low attendance of young adults at Eden. A large majority of the youth at Eden never step foot in a worship service. Ever wonder why most kids stop going to church after high school? It's probably because their parents don't force them to attend anymore. Why would parents need to force their teenage children to attend church? That's probably because these children were never exposed to the gospel in the context of the worship service.

There's an old latin phrase in the church tradition that states, "lex orandi est lex credendi" which translates, "the law of prayer is the law of belief." In more modern terms, our worship determines what we believe. If what we believe determines our identity as people of God, then one can see the importance of worship! The worship service is the most important means by which God's people establish who they are and what they believe. It is the one time of the week when most of us proclaim God's truth from our own lips. It is also the one time of the week when our church family has the opportunity to gather in display of unity. Why should the children be deprived of this? It is no wonder that most of them upon graduation from high school (or sooner) will walk out the doors of the church never to return again. They have no faith because they were never given the opportunity to practice it.

If you have children, I would encourage you to have them join you in worship. The change in the worship schedule in January will allow the perfect opportunity to do so. If you're concerned about your child being rambunctious during the worship service, please don't be. If you're someone who thinks children don't belong in the worship service, then I ask that you consider Jesus' words in the book of Mark.

And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them.

But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them,

"Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.

Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it."

And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.

(Mark 10:13-16 ESV)

Thank You

Thanks to the Church Family, Prayer Minutemen, Circle of Friends, Pastor John and Pastor Mike for your prayers, concern, cards and visitation during my summer hospitalization and surgery. A special thanks to Gary Daniels for all his hard work.

Walt W.

The response of the members of Eden to the request for furniture, bedding and household items to be given to the new incoming international students at SIUe was wonderful. A simple "Thank You" doesn't seem adequate because the kindness and generosity shown has helped many students who otherwise would be having a difficult time. If in the future you have items you no longer need or want, please contact me. Again, Thank You for giving to those in need and being a blessing in their lives.

Doris G.

I just want to thank Pastor John, Pastor Mike, the Prayer Minutemen and all my church family for all you did during my surgery and recovery. If you sent a card, gave food, stopped by for a visit or just called to wish me well. Just knowing I was in everyone's thoughts and prayers really meant a lot to me and I thank you. Most of all to my family for their support, encouragement and love. I know it is what got me to where I am today recovering nicely. I hope to be back to my old self soon.

Eileen H.

Thanks you very much for the wonderful service you sponsored on 9/11. It was so very special to attend such a wonderful heart warming service.

Merle and Sarah Y.

I can't find the right words to express my thanks for all of you who have been so kind and thoughtful to me in the past few weeks, with cards, calls and for Pastor Mike for his much needed visits. May I again ask you for your much needed prayers in the future.

Edna N.

The members of Eden Church wish to express their sympathy to the family of *Richard C.* He is survived by his wife, Cathy; sons, Ryan and Ben; one grandson; one brother and father, Leon.



Leroy B. He is survived by his wife, Verna; sons, Lee and Dean; two grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Loretta D. She is survived by her husband, Ray; daughter, Deborah S.; two grandsons and two sisters.

Eileen K. She is survived by daughters, Debra K. and Karen B.; two grandchildren and one sister.

Louis H. He is survived by his wife, Jean; sons, David and Dan and three grandchildren.

Recently Baptized at Eden:



Daphne Jane W. born on March 10, 2011. She is the daughter of Jacob and Nicole W. Her sponsors are Matt and Joanna C.

Eloise Elizabeth C. born on March 24, 2011. She is the daughter of Matt and Joanna C. Her sponsors are Jacob and Nicole W.

Congratulations to the following couples who were recently married:

Daniel U. & Kara F. on August 13.

Andrew M. & Mollie G. on September 3.

Brian D. & Katie B. on September 10.

Michael B. & Jennifer O. on October 1.

Robert G. & Mallory D. on October 8.

Joshua M. & Lauren L. on October 8.





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

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

The ***Eden Leaflet*** will be published on December 12, 2011. All submissions must include a name and phone number and be received in the office by November 29, 2011. We reserve the right to edit submissions for publication.

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