

Pastoral Thoughts

One year ago you called me to be your designated pastor. What a weird name! It sounds like you called me to be your designated hitter as in baseball. Actually I like that metaphor. Ministry is a team activity which requires the players to take the time to get to know each other, to cooperate on and off the field, and to hone their skills in order to benefit the team.

We accomplished a great deal in a short time. The pastoral presence was reestablished in worship, visitation, special services and administration. Our Session formed small group cadres of care. Each elder is now responsible for 12 people who they contact monthly. We learned that the yoked relationship with First Presbyterian is a good thing. In fact we discovered that neither church can exist without the other. What a wonderful confession to make about our Christian faith.

I also learned that you are the "bees knees," when it comes to the ideal congregation. Your ability to carry out the administrative work as deacons and elders, your support of the Presbytery, and your exhaustive support of local and global mission is impressive. Every member visitation continued through the Board of Deacons. I also experienced your ministry to the pastor during pastor appreciation month. Wow!

Thankfully we are not gazing at our belly buttons while the world goes by. The Session formed a feasibility study group to investigate the possibility of having a Presbyterian presence in Godfrey. While no decision has been made regarding the future of this congregation, you have moved outside your comfort zone to participate with 12th Street and College Avenue Presbyterian churches in this planning endeavor. Where this takes us no one knows, but this strategic style of thinking is far better than simply solving problems.

The month of April brings the promise of Spring, thank goodness, and new life. Whatever you do bring a friend to church so they can experience the difference Jesus makes in the world.

With gratitude,
Will

To start the Prayer Chain for someone in need of prayers call Mary Cordes at 618-465-1760 or 463-1276 or Marjory Bryant at 618-466-5421 or 466-6005.

We could use a few more people on the prayer chain, some of our callers and prayers have moved, others no longer have a telephone accessible. Mary and Marj get the request for the special prayers and they in turn call those they are to call, who in turn call their people on down the line. Then all are saying prayers for this person. Please contact either Mary or Marj if you would like to be part of the chain or have questions. We desperately need a few more people to make it work.

Next Elm Leaf Deadline
Wednesday, April 23, 2008

ESPC Web Site has been updated and has new features
www.geocities.com/espicalton

LITURGISTS

April - 6 Ann McLaughlin
13 - Marj Bryant
20 - Kathy Steinmann
27 - Chance Shewmake

COMMUNION SERVERS

April 6 - Sue Bryant, Chr.
Jerry Wray, Chance Shewmake,
John Kennedy, Norma Waggoner,
Debbie Wallace (set up & serve)
May 4 - Nancy Bailey, Chr.
Kathy Steinmann, Lyndal Colburn,
Tanya Sisk, Sandy Krug
Katy Jarman (set up & serve)

USHERS

Ushers are needed for all months.
Please volunteer. See Marj Bryant

ATTENDANCE

2/17/08 - , 2/24/08 - 38, 3/2/08 - 46
3/9 - 41, 3/16 - 50, 3/23 - 78, 3/30 - 38

THANK YOU

Dear Members of Elm Street Presbyterian Church: Thank you for all the cards, expressions of sympathy, memorials and the lovely buffet luncheon that you provides for Margaret's family and friends. Margaret loved her church and church family deeply and Elm Street Church is also very dear to us.

Stephen Dunnagan and family
Elinor and Bill Blacklock

Sue Bryant would like to thank everyone for the wonderful job they did on the Lenten Luncheon on March 12, 2008. She has received a lot of compliments on the meal and decorations. Thanks to all for a job well done..

A special thanks to all those that took their time to decorate the sanctuary for the Easter season.

JoAnn Phelps would like to thank those that prepared and served the last Salvation Army meal, Cathy and Scott Bryant, Audrey Stewart, Carole Springgate and Kayla Wray. She would also like to thank everyone for her beautiful birthday cards.

On behalf of the Oasis Women's Center I want to thank the Alton area churches for their thoughtful contribution to our friends campaign collected at the Lenten service. Thank You Everyone! *Steve and Marylou Cousley*

Thank you for the donation of \$81.50 which came from the Lenten Luncheon held at ESPC
David Blackburn, Executive Director
Crisis Food Center

SYMPATHY

ESPC has lost another long time member
Millicent Chappee
passed away on Friday, February 2, 2008
at St. Anthony's Health Center

BIRTHDAYS

April

- 3.....Breanne Shewmake
- 10.....Brittany Thatcher
- 24.....Sarah Paddock
- 26.....Harry Fessler
June Justice
- 29.....Laura Schultz

May

- 1.....Zada Shewmake
Sarah Gill
 - 6.....Katy Jarman
 - 9.....Cherilyn Trusty
- If I have missed your birthday, I'm truly sorry. I hope it was a good one. Please, let me know when it was. Marj Bryant

CRISIS FOOD CENTER REPORT

ESPC has sent 50 items to the Crisis Food Center since our last Elm Leaf was sent out. Let us keep up with the good work, there are lots of hungry people out there. If you would like to give money see Carole Springgate. Our February Food donation helped feed 1,235 men, women and children. This included 36 new (first time) families, who came for food assistance. In 2007 the Crisis Food Center was open 245 days to serve people, on each of those days they provided food for an average of 93 people.

DEACONS REPORT

Donations to the Deacon's Fund have been way down and they have been unable to help as many of those needing help as they have in the past. They are asking you to use your green Deacon Fund envelope (found in with your pledge envelopes) as often as you can. The Love Fund has not been used lately so it has money in it. **They also are still collecting empty ink-jet cartridges, don't forget to bring your empty**

ones in. They are planning a Spaghetti Dinner for April 19, 2008. See a deacon if you can help.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The committee met Monday, March 3, 2008. They are planning to expand their Scrip cards to other companies and are tallying up the survey forms now to see which ones to add. They have sent out Welcome Wagon letters to those new in the area. Balloons were released on Easter Sunday. They will be selling Season's Coupons again this year as a fund raiser. Tom Wyatt will be planning the annual Golf Scramble for September 14, 2008 and plan to invite all four Presbyterian churches to participate.

SESSION INFORMATION

The Session met twice since the last Elm Leaf with Rev Will Mason as Moderator. Elder Training by Rev. Mason is continuing at each Session meeting.

The Session approved the following:

1. The minutes of the previous meetings with one correction of a date in the February's minutes..
2. Moment For Mission, March 30, 2008 by Mary Cordes on the Community Supported Garden at LaVista.
3. Budget billing for the Ameren bill.
4. Jean Bryant to withdraw up to \$4500.00 from the housing allowance account as needed quarterly.
5. ESPC attend Jerry Wray's last CLP training service at United PC of Wood River.
6. Special services planned by the Worship Committee, such as Pentecost Sunday, Father and Mother's day
7. To do an Environmental Survey of ESPC by the Session.
8. Rev. Mason vacation July 30 through August 14, 2008.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Deacons Spaghetti Dinner
Saturday, April 19, 2008 - ESPC
4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Cost: Adults - \$7.00

Children (3-12) - \$3.00 - Under 3 free
There are sign up sheets for workers and
dessert makers. Your help is needed.

Mustard Seeds and Teaspoons

Riverbend Presbyterian Women's Retreat
at Alton First Presbyterian Church,
Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Over 55 - If you haven't paid your \$5.00 dues for the newsletter it is due now otherwise you will be taken off of the mailing list.

Thursday, May 22, 2008 Day trip to Fulton, MO. Cost of \$56.00 will include bus, admissions and lunch. We plan to make a dinner stop on the way home which is not included in the \$56.00. We will see the Churchill

Museum and the Wren Chapel, campuses of Westminster and William Woods Colleges, The Missouri School of the Deaf and to the King's Row area of beautiful old mansions (this area was the inspiration for the book and movie "King's Row") Our final stop will be "A Zeal For Wheels Car Museum" Lunch will be at Sir Winston's and you have the following choices:

1) Raspberry chicken salad; 2) Cup of soup, small salad, 1/2 BBQ pulled pork sandwich; 3) Cup of soup, small salad, 1/2 turkey wrap; 4) Cup of soup, small salad, 1/2 Reuben sandwich. Each lunch includes pie and a beverage. The bus will leave CAPC at 8:00 am.

Wednesday, June 25, 2008 Opera Theatre of St. Louis to see "Tales of Hoffman" \$55.00 which includes, bus, tickets and box lunch.

Spring Salad Luncheon
12th Street Presbyterian Church

Friday, April 18, 2008

11:00 am until 1:30 pm Tickets \$8.00

The Salvation Army opened a Christian Coffee House called "The Underground" on Saturday, March 22, 2008 at 525 Alby Street, Alton. It is a gathering place where you can encounter friends, fellowship, Jesus and Java. Come and hang out, have a cup of coffee, study, listen to some music and have a good time. Their hours for the present are: Monday through Saturday from 5:00 - 9:00 pm

ENCOUNTER Performance Schedule - 2008

April 6 at 7pm St. John Methodist-Edwardsville

April 13 at 7pm Evangelical UCC - Godfrey

April 20 at 6pm Troy United Methodist Church

April 27 at 7:30pm College Ave. Presbyterian

Church - Alton

May 5 at 7:30pm St. Peter & Paul Catholic Church

Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network

Annual Conference April 22-25, 2008 in St.

Louis. For more information contact Cindy

Wright at wright@solanapres.org or

858-509-2580.

Finish everyday and be done with it. You have done what you could. Some blunders and absurdities no doubt crept in; forget them as soon as you can. Tomorrow is a new day; begin it well and serenely and with too high a spirit to be cumbered with your old nonsense. This day is all that is good and fair. It is too dear, with its hopes and invitations, to waste a moment on yesterdays. **Ralph Waldo Emerson**

"Members"

Sarah Paddock
Esther Bott & Bill
Florence & Dan Earnhardt
Nellie Smithee
Evert Kingery
Marguerite Crowson
Richard & Sonia Hetge

"In The Nursing Home"

Pat Gross.....Willow Rose
Leorene Peterson.....St. Patrick's Residence
Clarabel Park.....Royal Oak Care Ctr
Gladys Chappee.....Eunice Smith Nsg. Home
Jean Freer.....Eunice Smith Nsg. Home
Marjorie Johnson.....White Hall Nsg & Rehab
Ruth Wilson.....The Fountains

RELATIVES & FRIENDS OF ELM STREET MEMBERS

Gertrude Smith, Hazel Morgan.....John Kennedy
Betty Bishop & Mary Callender.....Chance Shewmakes & Katie Jarman
Mary Kathryn & Marcia Slifka.....Chance' Shewmake & Katy Jarman
The Family of Collie WallaceAl Wallace's father
Dorothy Crabtree.....Bill Stone and Louise Norman's sister
Louise Crowson.....Marguerite's sister-in-law
Anna Hopkins.....Kathy Steinmann's mother
Carol & Don Domesick.....Carole Springgate
Mary Prosser.....Jane Hellrung's aunt
Kay Fleming.....Kathy Steinmann's cousin
Linda Baze.....Rick Stolze co-worker
Mary Kay & Joe Ryan.....Jane Hellrung
Grif Parker.....First Presbyterian Church
Rose Ann Stice & Patty McBride & Bill Dieu.....Bill Stone
Carol Wagner.....Sandy Krug
Janik Family & Ann Schubert.....Ann McLaughlin
Ann Slaughter.....the Stolzes
Dawson Jarman.....Jarman's grandson
Jackie Ahart.....Karen Auston
Robert Greenwell.....Debbie Wallace's father
Calvin Varble.....Jane Hellrung's grandson
Pam Jones.....Audrey Stewart
Judy Colburn's Aunt Marcella
John Chaikowsky.....Tanya Sisk's father
Pam Conrath.....Evert Kingery's daughter
Helen Waggoner.....Carole Springgate's aunt
Debbie Davis.....Jerry Wray's sister
Wes & Miriam Reynolds.....Cherilyn's parents
Grace Summers.....1st PC
Liz Johnson.....1st PC
Debbie Gates.....1st PC
Tony Ingles.....1st PC
Jerry & LouAnn Thomas.....1st PC
Families of Nancy Wilson & Laverne Logsten
Mark Stewart.....Audrey's husband

if you know of anyone that can be taken off of the prayer list, please call the office and let us know.

APRIL & MAY 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
13 9:15 Church School 10-15 am Prayer 10:45 Worship	14 8 pm AA/AI Anon Rev Mason starts vacation	15 6:30 pm Girl Scouts meet - church	16 9:30 am PW Retreat Planning comm. Meets 7 pm Boy Scout T-7	17 6 pm Worship committee meets. 6:30 pm GS meet CE Bldg 7pm Choir practice	18	19 Spaghetti Supper 4:00 - 7:00 pm
20 9:15am Church School 10-15 Prayer Service 10:45 Worship Jerry Wray preaching	21 8 pm AA/AI Anon Rev. Mason returns	22 7 pm Session meets	23 7 pm Boy Scout (-7)	24 6:30pm GS Mtg 7pm Choir practice	25	26 June Justice 90 th Birthday Party CE Bldg 2:00-4:00 pm
27 9:15am Church School 10-15 Prayer Service 10:45 Worship	28 8 pm AA/AI Anon	29	30 7 pm Boy Scout T - 7	MAY 1 9:30 am Over 55 mtg. 6:30 pm Girl Scouts- 7 pm Choir practice	2	3 Salvation Army Dinner - ESPC
4 9:15am Church School 10-15 Prayer Serv. 10:45- Worship Communion	5 8 pm AA/AI Anon	6 6:30 pm Girl Scouts- church	7 Celebration of aging 6 pm Jerry Wray @Beverly Farms 7 pm Boy Scout T-7	8 6:30 pm Girl Scout meet 7 pm Choir practice	9	10
11 9:15 am Church school 10-15 Prayer Service 10:45 Worship Pentecost Sunday and Mother's Day	12 7pm Outreach Committee meets. 8 pm AA/AI Anon	13	14 7 pm Boy Scout T - 7	15 6:30 pm Girl Scout t Presbytery mtg. 7 pm Choir practice	16	17
18 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Prayer 10:45 am Worship-	19 7 pm Deacons meet 8 pm AA/AI Anon	20 6:30 pm Girl Scouts- church	21 7 pm Boy Scouts meet	22 Over 55 trip to Fulton, MO	23	24