

Brothers and sisters in Christ, it is with a heavy heart that I share with you my decision not to renew my contract as your Designated Pastor. My current two year contract will end March 31, 2009 and I will then move to Seattle where my fiancée and daughters live. So my reasons are personal and related to family.

You have been like family to me in this short time and your support of my ministry has been exemplary. I will continue my pastoral duties until March 31, 2009 and what I have done to earn your trust I will continue. I have never worked with a congregation and its Session who displayed this much passion for Christ and competence. I will never forget you and expect our relationship to continue on a personal basis into the future.

I will be faithful, however, to my ordination vows not to interfere with the work of the future pastor. That means I will not be able to talk with anyone except Presbytery about the work of the church or the future pastor. I will also not be able to conduct funerals or weddings after my contract is over. But I will be able to share what is going on in my life and you will always have an invitation to visit Maria and me in the Northwest.

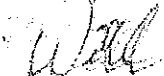
I have included the timeline for the pastoral search in this newsletter. Feel free to talk to any Session member or to me about it. There will be a team from our church who will conduct a series of congregational "Holy Conversations." These conversations will talk about the church, its future and the kind of pastoral leadership you expect for the next phase of this ministry.

Elm Street has a bright future because of the respect you show to pastoral leadership and the high quality Session and Deacon leadership who has a clear view of the future. God has an exciting future in store for you, trust our Lord and continue to follow Christ through our Presbyterian process of listening for the Holy Spirit. Your elders, deacons and the future nominating committee will be anointed by the Holy Spirit to lead you with their recommendations.

God bless you in our ministry and your future ministry.

With great admiration and love,

Will Mason



**A Recommended Time Line for Elm Street and
First Presbyterian Church of Alton, IL**

A. At first opportunity following the support/yoke committee meeting on Thursday, April 10, 2008, the sessions and congregations be notified that Will's tenure will end on March 31, 2009, per the contract of the two churches.

B. Each Session shall name a "Mission Study Team" consisting of not fewer than 7 persons nor more than 10 persons representative of the individual congregations by May 30, 2008. Recommendations for members of the team may be requested from the congregations.

C. The Mission Study teams will appoint a chair and consider the following questions during their study, as a minimum.

(1) What is the mission of this church, and how will it carry out that mission during the ensuing 5 years from March 31, 2009?

(2) Is the yoke (contract between the two churches) working, and should it be continued beyond March 31, 2009?

(3) What is the mission study team's vision of this church, its mission, and its membership in the year 2014?

D. The Mission Study teams will complete their study prior to November 1, 2008, and bring their recommendations to their individual sessions.

(1) If not accepted by the Session, objections will be considered and the report brought back to the Session for their next meeting.

(2) The recommendations will then be brought to the Congregations before January 1, 2009.

E. Upon approval by the congregations of their individual mission studies, the Committee on Ministry (COM) will be provided copies of the mission study reports, and COM will begin a search for a Designated Pastor or Pastors.

F. Members of COM will be available to offer support or answer questions during this process. The Presbytery office has support material that may assist Mission Study Teams in obtaining demographic or statistical information.

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, May 28, 2008

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

LITURGISTS

May 18- Debbie Wallace
25 - Services at Wood River United Presbyterian Church

COMMUNION SERVERS

June 1 - Audrey Stewart, Chr.
Marj Bryant, Emily Paddock
Ann McLaughlin (set up & serve)

USHERS

May - Dan & Katy Jarman
June - Kathy Steinmann, Ann McLaughlin,
Marj Bryant
Ushers are needed for all months.
Please volunteer. See Marj Bryant

ATTENDANCE

3/30 -38 4/6 - 48, 4/13 - 48, 4/20 - 43,
4/27 - 48, 5/4 - 51, 5/11 - 60

THANK YOU

Esther Bott would like to thank everyone for the many cards, visits, concerns and prayers.

Thank You ESPC for your contribution of \$354.00 to the Church World Service for the Tools and Blanket Program.

JoAnn Phelps would like to thank those that helped with the Salvation Army meal on May 3. They were *Carole Springgate, Lynne Phelps and Harry Fessler/*

CONGRATULATIONS

To **Brent Phelps** who is graduating from Alton High School

To **Bryan Lichtsinn** who is graduating from Ranken Trade School in St. Louis

To **Jamie McLaughlin** who will be inducted to the Junior National Honor Society at Alton Middle School

To **Kayla Wray** who was inducted into the National Honor Society at Alton High School

To **Christopher Darr** who graduates from Bradley University in Peoria

Are there any other graduates or honors we should mention?

Please contact the church office with this information.

We don't want to leave anyone out. They are all important to us.

BIRTHDAYS

- May
- 1.....Zada Shewmake
Sarah Gill
- 6.....Katy Jarman
- 9.....Cherilyn Trusty
- 10.....Abby Meyer
- 12.....Richard Stolze
- 15.....Brent Phelps
- 18.....Joyce McCormick
Judy Colburn
- 20.....Matthew Stolze

27.....Jerry Wray
 30.....Ryan Huber
 31.....Pamela Stolze
 June
 1.....Kirk Phelps
 4.....Christopher Darr
 7.....Nellie Smithee
 8.....Hannah Auston
 Lyndal Colburn
 12.....Jordan Bryant
 14.....Casey Buecker
 19.....Loretta Tague
 21.....Terry Shewmake
 22.....Sue Bryant
 23.....Lois Mitchell
 27.....Tom Wyatt
 29.....Richard Sisk
 Bryan Sisk
 30.....Jean Freer
 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. The Spaghetti Supper was a success.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The committee met Monday, May 12, 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. 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. They have received two responses from the balloons released on Easter Sunday **One was found five miles east of Carlyle IL on April 23,, it was number 59. One was found on April 21, in Iuka, IL, it was number 5. If you would like to see what they wrote about the balloons and where they live come by the office.**

SESSION INFORMATION

The Session met April 22, 2008 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.
2. Cathy Bryant as Elder commissioner for Presbytery on May 15, 2008
3. See the Pastor's letter and the page following
ESPC gave a total of \$354.00 to the Blanket and Tool Offering

UPCOMING EVENTS**Mustard Seeds and Teaspoons**

Riverbend Presbyterian Women's Retreat
at Alton First Presbyterian Church,.

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Retreat Leader - Rev. Linda Shugert
Lunch catered by Homestyle Gourmet, Inc.
Tickets are \$10.00 and can be purchased from Zada Shewmake, Sandy Krug, Cathy Bryant or the church office. .

There will a Least Coin (pennies) Offering.

On Sunday, May 25, 2008, ESPC will attend Wood River United Presbyterian Church's Worship service honoring Jerry Wray, who will be finished with his Field Study Assignment with Rev. Laing. The church has announcements at 10:15 am and worship starts at 10:30 am. There will be a reception following. Car pooling will be arranged. Contact Sue Bryant if you need a ride or can drive.

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.

The Salvation Army opened a Christian Coffee House called "The Underground" and had their Grand Opening on Friday, April 25, 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
May 18 - 5:05 pm at Abundant Life Community Church - Alton
June 1 - 6:00 pm at Dow Southern Baptist Church
June 8 - 7:00 pm at St. Paul United Methodist Church - Rosewood Heights
June 22 - 7:00 pm at Upper Alton Baptist Church
June 29 - 6:00 pm at Bethalto Church of God
July 13 - 7:00 pm at St. Paul United Methodist Church - Brighton
July 20 - 7:00 pm at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church - Belleville
July 25 - August 3 - 2008 Tour Colonial Williamsburg and Washington D.C.
August 10 - 4:30 & 7:00 pm Main St. United Methodist Church - Alton

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

of the Alton Presbyterian Churches

Where: Alton First Presbyterian Church

When: July 13 through July 17, 2008

With a potluck on Friday July 18, 2008
at Summersport

Time: 5:30 to 8:15 pm

Who: Pre-school through 6th grade

Volunteers are needed

all ages - for all areas

Wednesday will be ESPC's night for snacks and all churches help with the snacks on Thursday. It usually takes about 6 volunteers for our night and 2 for Thursday night.

Jerry Wray is this years Director.

See Cathy Bryant if you can help and need registration forms.

"Members"

Family of Jim Bowsher
 Esther Bott & Bill
 Florence & Dan Earnhardt
 Nellie Smithce
 Evert Kingery
 Jeannette Greene
 Richard & Sonia Hetge
 William Stone

"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 Sliftka..... Chance' Shewmake & Katy Jarman
 Dorothy Crabtree..... Bill Stone and Louise Norman's sister
 Louise Crowson..... Marguerite's sister-in-law
 Anna Hopkins..... Kathy Steinmann's mother
 Carol & Don Domescik..... 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 & Bill Dieu..... Bill Stone
 Carol Wagner..... Sandy Krug
 Janik Family & Ann Schubert..... Ann McLaughlin
 Ann Slaughter..... the Stolzes
 Delani & Dawson Jarman & Carlota Rapier..... The Jarman's
 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..... Cheryl's parents
 Grace Summers..... 1st PC
 Liz Johnson..... 1st PC
 Debbie Gates..... 1st PC
 Tony Ingles..... 1st PC
 Jerry & LouAnn Thomas..... 1st PC
 Amy Manker..... Kathy Steinmann's daughter
 Barb Roth..... friend of the Bryant's
 Dee Stolze..... Rick Stolze's mother
 Martha Fleming..... Jane Hellrung's mom
 Glenna Pickett..... Debbie Wallace
 Phillip Stewart..... Audrey Stewart

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

MAY & JUNE 2008

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
18 9:15 Church School 10-15 am Prayer 10:45 Worship	19 7pm Deacons meet. 8 pm AA/Al Anon	20 6:30 pm Girl Scouts meet - church	21 7 pm Boy Scout T- 7	22 6 pm Worship committee meets. 6:30 pm GS meet CE Bldg Over \$5 trip	23	24
25 Worship at United Presbyterian Church in Wood River Leave ESPC at 9:30am	26 Memorial Day OFFICE CLOSED 8 pm AA/Al Anon	27 7 pm Session meets	28 7 pm Boy Scout t-7	29 9:30am PW Retreat comm. Mtg. 6:30pm VBS mtg. at 1st PC 6:30pm GS .Mtg	30	31
JUNE 1 9:15am Church School 10-15 Prayer Service 10:45 Worship COMMUNION	2 8 pm AA/Al Anon	3	4 6 pm Jerry Wray @Beverly Farms 7 pm Boy Scout T- 7	5 9:30 am Over \$5 mtg.	6	7
8 9:15am Church School 10-15 Prayer Serv.	9 7pm Outreach Committee meets. 8 pm AA/Al Anon	10	11 Riverbend Presbyterian Women's Retreat at First Presbyterian Church 9am 7 pm Boy Scout T-7	12	13	14
15 9:15 am Church school 10-15 Prayer Service 10:45 Worship	16 7pm Deacons meet? 8 pm AA/Al Anon	17	18 7 pm Boy Scout T- 7	19	20	21
22 9:15 Sunday School 10-15 Prayer 10:45 am Worship-	23 8 pm AA/Al Anon	24	25 Over \$5 trip 7 pm Boy Scouts meet	26	27	28