

Summer months are upon us and so are the rising waters. Just when we were hoping for a lazy season, Nature reminds us that someone else is in charge of this place.

Now I never like that reminder. My mother and father reminded me of that fact when my sister came along and I was "put in charge" of this new little darling. Well sometimes things got out of hand and she got lost in the store or something and my mother would yell, "Weren't you watching her?"

"Yes," was my constant answer and it was the truth. You could watch my sister and take your eyes off this 36" wonder for two seconds and she would vanish in thin, department store air. The net effect of all this was punishment for something I didn't do for someone who didn't care precisely because she was the one in control of me.

The River presents us with exactly the same attitude. It is in control no matter how clever our Corp or clairvoyant our flood plans, 15 years later we are filling sand bags again.

The "river rats," people familiar with the wiles and ways of the Big Muddy, tell me this is simply the way of life for a people along the banks. They cite the floods, the almost floods, and the "rip snorters," that were the worst in history. What fascinates them is why people are surprised that the River floods. "It is the River's natural state, sort of like breathing," they say. "Every river has a signature, and the signature of this River is that when it floods it wipes out hundreds of miles of crop land, housing, estuaries, small towns, and large metropolitan areas. There is no river that rivals the Mississippi in its creative and destructive force."

Perhaps that is a helpful reminder about our lives throughout our "seasons." Just when we thought we were headed toward the glide path of a wonderful career, death occurs. Think Tim Russert. Or just when we were hoping to land a job with a fortune 500 company utilizing our gifts and skills, it is threatened with a buyout. Think Anheuser Busch.

There are lots of twists and turns in this summer season like the River which we have yet to experience. That's why church attendance is vital to your self interests during a season which seems...well boring. There is no holiday season liturgically and we don't think of big, splashy services during the summer months. Yet life continues to roll along and overwhelm our banks.

Worship is that place and time of connecting with God in fellowship with other Christians. It is more than that "have to," time. It is that elegant, "want to," time.

I look forward to see you in Church at a time when I need you most. My life too, needs the presence of people who care. Let us navigate this River of Life together.

Fondly,  
*Will*  
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, August 17, 2008**

ESPC Web Site has been updated  
and has new features  
**[www.geocities.com/espicalton](http://www.geocities.com/espicalton)**

### **LITURGISTS**

**June 29** - Audrey Stewart  
**July 6** - Marjory Bryant  
13 - Chance Shewmake  
20 - Debbie Wallace  
27 -  
**August 3** -  
10 -  
17 -  
24 -  
31 - Debbie Wallace

**Liturgists are needed for the dates**  
**without names. Can you help?**

### **USHERS**

**June** Marjory Bryant, Kathy Steinmann,  
Ann McLaughlin

**July** Zada and Chance Shewmake

**August**

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

### **COMMUNION SERVERS**

**July 6** - Cathy Bryant, Chr.  
Sue Bryant, Norma Waggoner  
Terri Darr (set up & serve)

**August** Chance Shewmake, Chr.,  
Jerry Wray, Debbie Wallace  
John Kennedy (set up & serve)

**September 7** - Lyndal Colburn, Chr.,  
Kathy Steinmann, Nancy Bailey,  
Sandy Krug, Katy Jarman,  
Tanya Sisk (set-up & serve)

### **ATTENDANCE**

5/18 - 36, 5/25 - at Wood River,  
6/1 - 47, 6/8 - 39, 6/15 - 57

### **SYMPATHY**

**To the family of Pamela Conrath**

Evert Kingery's daughter

She died Sunday, June 8, 2008

A memorial service was held Thursday, June 12  
at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in  
Collinsville, IL

### **THANK YOU'S**

I want to thank everyone for their cards, prayers,  
telephone calls, etc. following my recent  
hospital stay for a lung biopsy. It was quite a  
stay, they did rule out cancer but still don't have  
a definite diagnosis.

Thanks and God Bless You All! *Marj Bryant*

I attended the dinner served at your church  
Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup> for the family and friends of  
James Bowsher. I wanted to take this  
opportunity to thank the hands that prepared the  
meal and thank you for your gracious  
hospitality shown to all of us. It is little wonder  
why Jim adored his church family.

In Christian Love, *Joyce Lawson, Bunker Hill*

**BIRTHDAYS****June**

19.....Loretta Tague  
21.....Terry Shewmake  
22.....Sue Bryant  
23.....Lois Mitchell  
27.....Tom Wyatt  
29.....Richard Sisk  
          Bryan Sisk  
30.....Jean Freer

**July**

1.....Bobbi Wray  
          Patrick Thatcher  
6.....Kelsey Busler  
13.....Terri Darr  
          Lorene Peterson  
21.....Steve Springgate  
22.....Chance Shewmake  
24.....Janice Gremaud  
          Elsie Siemer  
26.....Daniel Earnhardt  
28.....Cathy Bryant  
30.....Ann McLaughlin

**August**

3.....Zachary Bryant  
          Sandy Krug  
          Maddie Meyer  
4.....Brandon Medlock  
6.....Andy Hruby  
          Sara Keene  
7.....Timothy Shewmake  
          Rev. Ken DeWall  
9.....Maggie Paddock  
10.....Michael Wyatt  
11.....Mary Cordes  
14.....Carol Jo Domescik  
15.....Dwight Gross  
          Mark Springgate  
17.....Marguerite Crowson  
          Erin Oxford  
26.....Willanette Ball  
28.....Kayla Wray  
30.....Sarah Wyatt Kirkpatrick

**September**

4.....Al Wallace  
8.....Kristin Stone  
10.....Mark Stone

11.....Tyler Trusty  
14.....Jacob Hruby  
16.....William Stone

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 took 21 items to the Crisis Food Center on May 15, 2008. 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.

**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.

**ARE YOU CRAZY?**

No, she is not. When Ann McLaughlin suggested that we bring the Spaghetti Supper back, some of us were a little skeptical. Ann said, seriously, I believe that it can be done. We listened and discussed it over the next few months and decided it was in fact possible (all things are possible, if you believe). Having enough people to man it was the big concern, also, having not done it for about 3 years, we weren't sure that we would have the turn out that we had experienced over the past years. We made a list of what and how we would go about getting ready and the rest, as they say was history.

The Deacons and the Outreach committee joined forces and worked together to make it possible. I've said it before and I'll say it again, how proud of our people I am and how proud I am to be a part of these groups and ESPC. We

are small, but don't count us out (until the last vote has been cast - HA! HA!). When push comes to shove and the chips are down, that's when we show up and are at our strongest. It's been my experience many times at ESPC, that we come together for a common cause, from Bucket Brigade to the collection of Christmas gifts, Crisis Food Center, etc. No matter what our differences may be.

I would like to thank all those that made it happen, from the Deacons & Outreach to the workers, food preparers, dessert makers, set-up, take down, and especially those that bought tickets and came. Also, an added special thanks to the youth, that helped out and did an excellent job.

After expenses, approximately \$1,000.00 was made. Making money is the purpose of the Spaghetti Supper. It is a fund raiser and it allows us to do what Deacons do - give it away. Yes, a big part of our function is to help those in need and we can't do that, if we don't have the funds, so, once again thanks for making it possible for us to do what we do best - help others.

*Sincerely, John Kennedy*

#### **OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

The committee met on Monday, May 12, 2008 and again briefly after worship on Sunday, June 1, 2008. They discussed the Spaghetti Dinner, felt it went smoothly and the Buffet Style was successful and many favorable comments were made especially on the sauce, salad dressing and variety of desserts available. 184 people were served. Suggestions for next time include a quilt raffle, having the Seasons coupons available, a Silent auction and valet service. The big problem this year was the moisture and humidity in the kitchen which made the floor wet and slippery.

The Arms of Love baby bottles were given out on Mother's Day and picked up on Father's Day, the final tally is not in yet.

John Kennedy will be attending the First Fruits Banquet for ESPC.

*The committee would like to thank everyone for their participation in the Seasons coupon sales. It is a worthwhile*

*moneymaker and hope all will participate again next year when they plan to have the coupons available in April.*

**The committee is planning a food drive for the Crisis Food Center in August. See the details in the Upcoming Events section.**

**The trip to the Wood River Presbyterian Church on May 25, 2008 to honor Jerry Wray as he finished his CLP work there was a success and many from ESPC attended.**

#### **BUCKET BRIGADE 2008**

This was a transition year for me. I handed the leadership of the ESPC Bucket Brigade team over to Lyndal Colburn. Lyndal and I went to the annual Bucket Brigade meeting to pick out a house to paint. We knew we would be small (number of painters), so we tried to find one that wouldn't be too big nor take too long to paint. Well, so much for that.

There wasn't a lot of area to paint, but it was a little harder to reach, than had been anticipated. That ladder work can make for a long hard day and it was. We were a little short on tall ladders, but thanks to Ed Gray (Pride official) we were able to get an extra one.

We started out with six painters and that actually wouldn't have been too bad a number, if the painting hadn't been just out of reach, without the use of a tall ladder. Quite different than the scene across the street from our house. College Avenue had that house and about thirty painters to do the work. They completed their painting and were cleaned up and gone by about 10:30 A.M.

Actually, College Avenue completing their house was a bonus for us. A husband and wife came over and joined us (Jeff and Maureen), which was much appreciated. Not only were we joined by them, the McLaughlin Family showed up and provided us with a much needed boost.

I, myself was truly happy that Myles joined Ann and the girls, he jumped right in cutting away some small trees, so that the rear gable of the garage could be painted. After, he completed that area, he joined Lyndal and I on the larger

end gable and we completed the house.

It takes all of us to get the job done and that is always the case. As always we had good workers, even though we are small in number. We are big in spirit. For the last 20 years it was never certain how many would show up to work, but it was always enough. My, I wonder who made that happen (hint-hint)? Yes, Thank God.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those that took part in this years Bucket Brigade. They are as follows: Lyndal Colburn, Lyndal's son-in-law, Jean Bryant, Steve Springgate, Jane Hellrung, Ann, Myles, Caitlin and Lauren McLaughlin, also Jeff and Maureen.

*God Bless Ya'll, John Kennedy*

### SESSION INFORMATION

The Session met May 27, 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 meeting.
2. Jerry Wray as Elder commissioner for Presbytery on August 21, 2008
3. The treasurer's report.
4. A Mission Study Team
5. The report of the last Presbytery meeting.

*The Banner Making Committee is making a Peacemaking Banner which will be sent to and hung at the Presbyterian General Assembly meeting in June.*

\$351.46 was collected for the One Great Hour Of Sharing

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### **CRISIS FOOD CENTER FOOD COLLECTION**

*"I was hungry and you fed me."*

*Matthew 25:35*

*August 3 through August 31, 2008*

**Brown paper bags will be given out on Sunday, August 3, 2008 to be returned full by August 31, 2008.**

**Non-perishable items, canned goods, etc.**

**Let us help feed the people in need.**

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**Over 55 Wednesday, June 25, 2008** Opera Theatre of St. Louis to see "Tales of Hoffman" \$55.00 which includes, bus, tickets and Subway box lunch.

Nothing is planned for July.

August - History Museum - Civil War Tour, Lunch and Lee-Grant Exhibit

September - Boat trip on the Tom Sawyer to Kimmswick, Mo

Other events in planning stage Taste of St. Louis and an overnight to New Harmony, IN

December - Tour of Conoco Phillips Wood River refinery

More information as details are finalized.

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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

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ENCOUNTER Performance Schedule - 2008

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

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Alton Parish 4 Church VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - "Rainforest Adventure" will be held at Alton First Presbyterian Church for preschool through sixth grade. It starts Sunday, July 13, 2008 from 5:45 - 8:15 pm through Thursday, July 17 with a swim party/potluck at Summersport on Friday, July 18, 2008 for all

our students' families! We are looking for a few good men and women to help with skits, decorations, crafts, snacks, games, the potluck at Summersport, preschool and small groups. ESPC will have to provide the snacks for Wednesday night and help on Thursday. Please see Cathy Bryant if you can help or fill out the form found in the Elm Leaf and return to the church office. Please use the registration form enclosed and return to the church office. Invite your children, grandchildren- all children you know to come to the rainforest at First Presbyterian Church for fun this summer.

**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 we need someone to coordinate what we will provide (we need a volunteer for this) with the Snacks Chairperson. It will take 2 volunteers from ESPC for Thursday night. If you can help see Cathy Bryant. Jerry Wray is this year's Director. ESPC is also in charge of registration.**

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The Presbytery is inviting ESPC to the Ordination of Susan T Hayes as Minister of Word and Sacrament and her installation as Associate Pastor at St. Mark Presbyterian Church on June 29, 2008 at 3:00 pm. 601 Claymont Drive, Ballwin, MO 63011 Reception following.

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ESPC is scheduled to provide the Supper Meals at the Salvation Army on Saturdays, July 19, and September 27, 2008 John Kennedy, Jane Hellrung and Norma Waggoner have signed up to help in July. More help is needed and help is needed for September. If you would like to help provide a meal for those in need, contact JoAnn Phelps.

Faith Lutheran Bingo Night,  
Saturday, July 19, 2008  
Faith Lutheran Church and School  
6809 Godfrey Rd Godfrey IL  
Sandwiches, salad and desserts will be served from 6:00-6:45 pm and  
Bingo will start at 7:00 pm.  
Cost: Adult tickets \$15.00 per individual or \$25.00 per couple. Kids (age 17 and under) \$5.00 per ticket.  
This includes supper and two bingo cards per person. Additional cards are \$2.00 each.  
Prizes for all ages.  
Tickets on sale in the church office.  
For more information contact Angie Timmermann at 618-946-0418.  
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### **BULLETIN BLOOPERS**

from the Church Secretary Today, newsletter  
(from actual church publications)

Pick-up the new calendar from the Welcome Center. Please let us know if you have any addictions or corrections.

Portrait Shoot: 10 AM (please bring a person that you will be able to shoot that morning.)

Oh Lord our God, we prepare to celebrate the girth of Your Son, born for us.

Just a reindeer that you are to work in the nursery this coming Sunday.

Look at the baby in the Manager.

May 20<sup>th</sup> is the date for the return of the all-perish Spaghetti Dinner

The Holy Spirit was defiantly at work in the worship service last Sunday.

JOIN THE FUN! BE A

# RAINFOREST ADVENTURE

## Team Member

Adults, Seniors and Teens— with a heart for kids—  
we need you! Share your gifts with children and  
change lives for Christ.

Be part of this year's fun-tastic VBS!

- Small Group Leader
- Attraction Center Leader
- Skits
- Bible stories
- Crafts
- Games
- Music
- Snacks
- Preschool
- Decorating
- \$ Donations for Daily Challenges
- Preparing Crafts
- Clean Up (Thursday evening)
- Help with Potluck (Friday evening)
- Registration
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_



# RAINFOREST ADVENTURE REGISTRATION FORM



Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Home e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's age: \_\_\_\_\_ Last school grade completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Home congregation (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

*In case of emergency (when the parent/guardian cannot be reached) please contact:*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to child: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please list any allergies (including food allergies) the VBS staff should be aware of:*

\_\_\_\_\_

*Person responsible for picking up this child at the end of each VBS day:*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of parent/guardian: \_\_\_\_\_



**JUNE & JULY 2008**

	<u>Monday</u> 23	<u>Tuesday</u> 24	<u>Wednesday</u> 25	<u>Thursday</u> 26	<u>Friday</u> 27	<u>Saturday</u> 28
22 10:15 Prayer 10:45 am Worship- Worship Committee Mtg after worship	8 pm AA/AI Anon	7pm Session	Over 55 trip 7 pm Boy Scout T- 7 6:30 pm VBS mtg. at 1 <sup>st</sup> PC-Alton			
29 10:15 Prayer 10:45 am Worship.	30 8 pm AA/AI Anon	JULY 1	6pm- Beverly farms- Jerry Wray 7 pm Boy Scout t-7	3	4 Office Closed Fourth of July Holiday	5
6 10-15 Prayer Serv. 10:45 Worship COMMUNION	7 8 pm AA/AI Anon	8 10am-Over 55 mtg. 6:30 pm VBS mtg. at 1 <sup>st</sup> PC	9 7 pm Boy Scout T - 7	10	11	12
13 10:15 Prayer 10:45 am Worship- 5:45pm-8:15 pm VBS @ Alton 1 <sup>st</sup> PC	14 5:45pm-8:15 pm VBS @ Alton 1 <sup>st</sup> PC 8 pm AA/AI Anon	15 5:45pm-8:15 pm VBS @ Alton 1 <sup>st</sup> PC	16 5:45pm-8:15 pm VBS @ Alton 1 <sup>st</sup> PC 7 pm Boy Scout T-7	17 5:45pm-8:15 pm VBS @ Alton 1 <sup>st</sup> PC	18 VBS SWIM/Potluck @ Summersport	19 ESPC Salvation Army Meal
20 10-15 Prayer 10:45 Worship	21 8 pm AA/AI Anon	22 7pm Session	23 7 pm Boy Scout T - 7	24	25	26
27 10-15 Prayer 10:45 Worship	28 8 pm AA/AI Anon	29	30 7 pm Boy Scouts meet Rev. Mason begins vacation	31		

AUGUST 2008

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
3 10:15 Prayer 10:45 am Worship- Rev. Mason on vacation this week	4 7 pm Outreach Comm. Mtg. 8 pm AA/AI Anon	5	6 6pm- Beverly farms- Jerry Wray 7 pm Boy Scout T-7	7	8	9
10 10-15 Prayer 10:45 Worship	11 8 pm AA/AI Anon	12	13 7 pm Boy Scout T - 7 Rev Mason returns from vacation	14	15	16
17 10:15 Prayer 10:45 am Worship	18 8 pm AA/AI Anon	19	20 7 pm Boy Scout T-7	21 Presbytery Mtg. Farmington MO	22	23
24 10-15 Prayer 10:45 Worship	25 8 pm AA/AI Anon	26 7pm Session	27 7 pm Boy Scout T - 7	28	29	30
31 10-15 Prayer 10:45 Worship	SEPTEMBER 1 Labor Day Office closed 8 pm AA/AI Anon	2	3 6pm- Beverly farms- Jerry Wray 7 pm Boy Scouts meet	4 7 pm Choir Practice	5	6

*Elm Leaf Prayer Concerns - Summer 2008*

***"Members"***

Esther & Bill Bott  
Florence & Dan Earnhardt  
Nellie Smithee  
Evert Kingery  
Jeannette Greene  
Richard & Sonia Hetge

***"In The Nursing Home"***

Pat Gross.....Willow Rose  
Lorene Peterson... St. Patrick's Residence  
Clarabel Park.....Royal Oak Care Ctr.  
Gladys Chappee..... Eunice Smith Nsg. Home  
Marjorie Johnson...White Hall Nsg & Rehab Ctr.  
Willanette Ball.....Methodist Village  
Ruth Wilson.....The Fountains  
Helen Foster.....The Fountains  
Gertrude Haynes.....The Fountains

**Relatives and Friends of ESPC**

Gertrude Smith, Hazel Morgan.....John Kennedy  
Betty Bishop, Mary Calendar.....Chance Shewmake & Katy Jarman  
Mary Kathryn & Marcia Slifka.....Chance Shewmake & Katy Jarman  
Dorothy Crabtree.....Bill Stone and Louise Norman's sister  
Anna Hopkins, Kay Fleming, Amy Manker.....Kathy Steinmann  
Carol Jo & Don Domescik, Helen Waggoner.....Carole Springgate  
Mary Prosser, Mary Kay & Joe Ryan, Martha Fleming.....Jane Hellrung  
Linda Baze, Ann Slaughter.....Stolze's  
Rose Ann Stice & Bill Dieu.....Bill Stone  
Carol Wagner.....Sandy Krug  
Janik family, Ann Schubert.....Ann McLaughlin  
Delani & Dawson Jarman, Carlotta Rapier.....The Jarmans  
Pam Jones, Phillip Stewart.....Audrey Stewart  
Jackie Ahart.....Karen Auston  
Barb Roth.....The Bryant Family  
Glenna Pickett.....Debbie Wallace  
The Family of Pam Conrath  
Margo & Robert Greenwell.....Debbie Wallace  
Debbie Davis.....The Wrays  
Deb & Paul McMahon.....Willfa Humenick  
Kathie Rain  
Steve Roger.....Rev. Will Mason

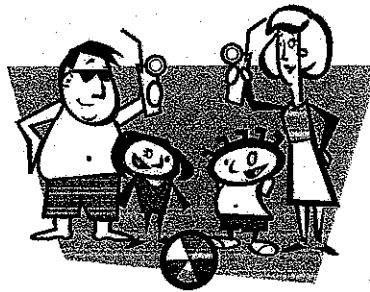
First PC - Grace Summers, Dick & Liz Johnson, Debbie Gates,  
Tony Ingles, Jim Johnson, Charlene Hamilton

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

**ELM STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
101 WEST ELM STREET  
ALTON, ILLINOIS 62002**

**Elm Leaf**

**Summer Issue 2008**



**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

**Monday through Friday 8:30 am - 12:30 pm**

**Rev. Will Mason's Office Hours Thursday and Friday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm**

**Church Phone 618-466-5421 FAX 618-466-5475**

**Email [ELMSTPRESBYCHURCH@SBCGLOBAL.NET](mailto:ELMSTPRESBYCHURCH@SBCGLOBAL.NET)**

**Rev. Will Mason - Pastor**

**Cherilyn Trusty...Organist/Choir Director**

**Marjory Bryant...Administrative Assistant**