

ELM LEAF October & November 2008

Pastor Rev. Will Mason

Elm Street Presbyterian Church 101 West Elm Street, Alton, Illinois 62002

Winter November and December are those months when everything changes. I cannot tell you how many times I went out of my door dressing the way my neighbor looked. Naturally I should have checked on my own before I put on the Bermuda shorts...period. But that's the way it goes. We follow the leader without checking the wind direction on our own. Sometimes we celebrate the holidays the same way.

Now is the time to ask, "How will you celebrate the holidays? Will you follow or lead? How will your celebration make a difference for Christ?" Before you recoil from this question, I'm just asking about the little things.

The Thanksgiving meal, for instance, has a lot of expectations. We have that "coming together" desire. The family comes together. The meal comes together. The good memories come together. Sometimes, however, they do not. Things change over time and we are then presented with a choice. We can bemoan the fact that we are older, people are missing and the gravy is lumpy. We can otherwise choose to thank God for what we have that day. The people who are there are a blessing, the fact that we are not dead is a blessing and that we have gravy is a miracle.

Simple things make a difference. I like to steal good ideas and then pass them along. One year the host typed up words on cards that were folded over like name cards at each place setting. When we sat down for dinner, he said, "Each card says what you have given me as spiritual food. I thank God for you and for the many ways you feed my spirit." Then we looked at the card and we saw words like, love, friendship, laughter, memories, etc... So that is one more thing to pass on to you and add to your Thanksgiving day.

Christmas day is even more difficult. Wow! We are under such pressure to make or break this holiday. One year I finally "cratered" under the Christmas pressure and announced that I was not going to focus on over the top Christmas gifts anymore. My focus would be on over the top birthday gifts and then on a much simpler Christmas.

Gift cards for small amounts, checks, cash, dollar store stocking stuffers were the main gifts. The day started with the reading of the Christmas story from the Bible and then cards from relatives and friends filled in the rest of the morning. Food was part of it and now without children I try to remember our homebound friends and go for a visit to the nursing homes. I remember that none of this is about me, it is about Christ. So I try simple ways to bring Him back into the holiday. Don't get me wrong, I'm not blowing my trumpet, I'm just passing on things you probably do already to make this a fantastic Christmas.

Above all, remember to take in the hope of these two holidays. Whatever has happened to you and to the world, this season represents a new start. Celebrate that and the place Christ has in it; then believe that tomorrow is the best yet to come.
Peace, 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 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, November 5, 2008

ESPC Web Site
www.geocities.com/espcalton

LITURGISTS

October 19 - Kathy Steinmann
26 - Debbie Wallace
November 2 - Lyndal Colburn
9 - Mary Cordes
16 - Ann McLaughlin
23 - Chance Shewmake

USHERS

October

Sandy Krug, Verna Wilson,
John Kennedy, Lyndal Colburn

November

The Rick Stolze Family

Ushers are needed for December. If you can't usher every Sunday of the month sign up for the Sundays you can.. Please volunteer. See Marj Bryant

COMMUNION SERVERS

November 2

Jerry Wray, Chr., Chance Shewmake,
Cathy Bryant, Emily Paddock,
Norma Waggoner,
Ann McLaughlin (set up & serve)

November 30

Kathy Steinmann, Chr., Lyndal Colburn,
Tanya Sisk, Katy Jarman
Sandy Krug (set up & serve)

ATTENDANCE

9/7 - 49, 9/14 - 32, 9/21 - 52,
9/28 - 53 10/5 - 43 10/12 - 53

BIRTHDAYS

October

3.....Jeremy Shewmake
4..... Charles Tague
5..... Ruth Wilson
6.....Jenny Wyatt
7.....Sue Stone
9.....Jeff Auston
10.....Sara Lichtsinn
Michael Stolze
11.....Lynne Phelps
12.....Marjorie Johnson
24.....Carole Springgate
27.....Mike Paddock
29.....Jeannette Greene
Mark Darr

November

3.....Amanda Phelps
4.....Gladys Chappee
5.....Brent Phelps
6.....Greg Lister
7.....Esther Bott
11.....Norma Waggoner
12.....Debbie Wallace
17.....Shaine Bryant
18.....Florence Earnhardt
23.....Shaun Wallace
30.....Louise Norman

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

ADDRESSES

Evert Kingery
1201 Hartman Lane, Apt. 221
Shiloh, IL 62221

CONGRATULATIONS

Katelynn Renee Saville arrived on Tuesday,
October 7, 2008 weighing in at 6 # 14 oz.
Parents: Becky and Jeff Saville
Granddaughter of Karen and Jeff Auston and
Mike and Maggie Paddock
Great Grandmother Marjorie Johnson

THANK YOUS

John Kennedy would like to than everyone for
the Birthday Cards and Best Wishes he received
on his birthday.

Thanks to **Glenda Heflin, Carole Springgate,**
Harry Fessler and Joann Phelps who served a
meal to 20 people at the Salvation Army on
Saturday, September 20, 2008.

CRISIS FOOD CENTER REPORT

ESPC sent 85 items to the Crisis Food Center
the first part of October. *303 items were
collected in August during our food drive.*

Dear Friends at ESPC, During September the
Crisis Food Center provided food to 1,302
adults and 776 children. Over 2,000 hungry
individuals turned to them for help in their time
of need. Fortunately for them, the CFC was able
to give them a food order that fed them for 4- 6
days. we could not do what we do for needy
people without kind friends like you that
recognize the great need and make an effort to
alleviate some of that suffering. All of us read
about poverty and hunger and then choose one
of two responses. We can feel sorry for those in
that plight and do nothing or we can be moved
with compassion and help as the Lord directs us.
Thankfully, you chose the latter response and
donated food items to us that we passed on to
some of those 2,000 men, women and children.
We are grateful for you and your partnership
with us in the fight against hunger in our area.
For the hungry,

David Blackburn Executive Director

DEACONS REPORT

The Deacons are asking you to continue using
your green Deacon Fund envelope (found in
with your pledge envelopes) as often as you can.
The Deacons have been getting many, many
calls for help with utility bills, etc. Their money
can go fast. A week ago they had a lady call,
who had only been a care giver for her mother,
no other kind of employment ever. She had gone
to the Department of Rehabilitation and they
were training her to be a care giver for others.
Her mother had passed away, she had no income
so she was loosing her home, which was to be
auctioned off this week. She needed belts for
her car, which she said might be her home for
awhile. Stutz's Auto repair said they would
replace the belts for \$110.00 total (parts &
labor). This message was given to your Deacons
that decide who can be helped and they thought
this was someone that really needed their help.
The lady called back after the work was done
and said to thank the Deacons, she was so
thrilled and her car was so quiet now. Stutz's
Auto repair called and said they felt like she
really deserved the help and they threw in a free
oil change and lube job.

**They also are still collecting empty ink-jet
cartridges with printer heads, don't forget to
bring your empty ones in.**

SESSION INFORMATION

The Session met September 23, 2008 with Rev
Will Mason as Moderator. The Session heard
the Mission Study Teams Report and acted upon
it. A copy of the report and a report of the
Sessions actions are included in this newsletter.
The recommendations were also read in church
on Sunday, October 5, 2008.

The Session approved the following:

1. The minutes of the previous meeting and
treasurer's report.
2. The use of the church basement by the Girl
Scouts on the first and third Tuesdays of the
month and the C. E. Building Fellowship Hall
for Girl Scout troop 224 on the first, second
and third Thursdays of the month..

3. Communion by intinction on October 5, 2008.
4. The Slate of Officers for 2011
Elders - Sue Bryant, Chance Shewmake and Jerry Wray
Deacons - John Kennedy, Norma Waggoner and Debbie Wallace

Outreach Committee

Wants to remind you that as you change from your summer wardrobe to your winter wardrobe to put those items you no longer plan on keeping in their little yellow house. Someone can use you lightly worn clothing.

Also continue using the scrip cards at Macy's and Schnuck's

The Outreach Committee will provide gifts for
Arms of Love
again this year. More details later.

NEEDS

The Presbytery has a Need for Volunteer Assistance. It is their goal to find willing men and women who would donate some of their time to the ministry of the presbytery in ways that would be enriching and fulfilling as a part of volunteer service. Areas of volunteerism include: hospitality at the presbytery center, assistance in operations (mailings & distributions), assistance with registration at presbytery meetings, assistance in the Resource Center or at Mound Ridge. Already many folks are sharing their gifts but they could use more! Pat Cook, our Volunteer Coordinator is willing to train volunteers and help them find their niche of service. With the cost of gas, we also promise to be good stewards about a person's availability. See Marj for more information or call Judy Pickett at the presbytery office 877-772-2395 Ext.112

Presbytery is looking for stories of God's Grace working in your life, but that Grace was not recognized until hours, days, months or even years later.

Guidelines:

- Stories should be 500 words or less; however do not let that stop you. The editors can expand or decrease the number of words.
- Stories must be non-fiction.
- We reserve editorial rights for all stories.
- If you have a story to tell but do not want to write it, a personal interview can be arranged by contacting Cindy Corley at 877-772-2395 Ext. 100.

Mail submissions to The Resource Center at the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy 2236 Tower Grove Ave. St. Louis, MO 63110 or email as a Word document attachment to ccorley@gipby.org. The deadline is November 1, 2008. They will be put in a book. See Marj for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Over 55 -

November 11, Tuesday Savor the City, seven stops with includes samples. Leave CAPC at 8:00 am. Tour led by Linda Koenig. First stop Missouri History Museum where we will have a light breakfast. Other stops include coffee, ice cream, candy, lunch, pastries and spices, not necessarily in that order. Cost \$50.00 Home by 4 pm.

December 10, Wednesday- Tour of Conoco Phillips Wood River Refinery, includes a talk, walking tour, their History Museum and be their guests for lunch in the company cafeteria. Cost \$15. Deadline for reservations is Dec.3. Guests are advised to wear slacks or jeans, closed-toe, hard soled shoe. Photography is not allowed. We will leave CAPC at 8:30 am

December 28, 2008, Sunday - Fox Theatre to see the Rockettes Cost \$85.00 includes bus and tickets. Get your reservations as soon as possible. We have 30 tickets, may be able to get more but not in the same section. **Our bus will leave at 11:00 am from the Alton Mall near Amarillo Steak House** There is plenty of parking between the restaurant and Macy's.

February 27, 2009 - St. Louis Symphony
Coffee Concert

March 13, 2009 - Gilbert and Sullivan's
Pirates of the Penzance at the Touhill

The Mission Council of Presbytery invites you
to LISTEN! To God through Scripture and in
prayer... To each other in holy conversation...

For information regarding the actions of the
218th General Assembly.

**Sunday Afternoon October 19, 2008 from
3:00-5:00 pm at College Avenue Presbyterian
Church.** In preparation for consideration of the

amendments to the Constitution at the meeting
of Presbytery on February 21, 2009 at the Third
Presbyterian Church, Moline Acres., MO

Mystery Dinner Theater to benefit Mound
Ridge Camp and Retreat Center Friday,
October 24, 2008 at First Presbyterian Church
100 E. Adams, Kirkwood, MO \$30.00 - per
person

6:30 pm *Silent Auction and Appetizers*

7:30 pm *Dinner Theater*

For reservations call 573-265-3098 or
314-772-2395 Ext 00 or toll free 877-772-
2395. This event, sponsored by the Camp
and Conference Ministry Team of the
Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy, is to
benefit Mound Ridge Camp and Retreat
Center, a ministry and mission of the
presbytery. A **Silent Auction** featuring
Theme Baskets from churches, committees,
groups, and individuals in the Presbytery of
Giddings-Lovejoy will begin at 6:30 pm!

Make a Mind-Body-Spirit Connection
Saturday, November 4, 2008 at the Holiday Inn
Mind Body Spirit Health Fair 9 to 11:30 am
Refreshments & Light Lunch 11:30 am to noon
12 noon Keynote Speaker - Zonya Foco

Register - 465-2264 limited space

**Holiday One-Stop Shop 10 am - 4 pm
Saturday, October 25, 2008 at the
Resurrection Lutheran Church Godfrey**

**In home Vendors: Shoozles Jewelry,
Pampered Chef, Mary Kay, Party Lite,
Southern Living at Home, Stampin' up!,
Home Interiors, Tastefully Simple,
Longaberger, Tupperware, Scarves by
Karen, Arbonne and many more...**

October is Pastor Appreciation Month

We will be honoring Rev Mason every Sunday
in October.

On Sunday, October 26, 2008 we will have
**Wear Your Favorite Sweater Sunday and
A Pastor Appreciation Luncheon**

Wear your favorite sweater and if it has a story
behind it, share that story with others.

We will also have food of the Fall Season
(such as chili, candy apples, cider, etc.)
provided by

the Outreach and Worship Committees.

We are also planning to have a card basket
for Will at the luncheon that Sunday,
October 26, 2008. If you have any questions,

see someone from

the Worship or Outreach Committees.

Music at Ladue Chapel presents
CALEDON

Scotland's Tenors In Concert

Friday, November 7, 2008 at 7:30 p. m.

\$25.00 general admission

Ladue Chapel Presbyterian Church

9450 Clayton Road

St. Louis, MO 63124

To purchase tickets call 314-993-4771



Don't forget to set your clocks back before you
go to bed on Saturday, November 1, 2008
Daylight Savings time ends on Sunday,
November 2, 2008

October & November 2008

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
<p>129 9:15 Sun. School 10:30 Prayer 10:45 Worship 4pm Confirmation class</p>	<p>20 7 pm Deacons 8 pm AA/Al Anon</p>	<p>21 6:30 pm Girl Scouts church basement</p>	<p>22 7 pm Boy Scout T-7</p>	<p>23 6pm Worship committee meets 6 pm Youth 'n Community 6:30 pm Girl Scout Leaders meet 7 pm Choir practice</p>	<p>24 6 pm Debbie Krug use CJE Bldg Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>25 NOVEMBER 1 Set your clocks back daylight savings time ends Nov.2, 2008</p>
<p>26 9:15 Sun. School 10:30 Prayer 10:45 Worship Favorite Sweater Sunday & Pastor App. Luncheon 4pm Confirmation class</p>	<p>27 .8 pm AA/Al Anon</p>	<p>28 7 pm Session</p>	<p>29 7 pm Boy Scout T-7</p>	<p>30 6 pm Youth n Comm. 7 pm Choir practice</p>	<p>31</p>	
<p>2 9:15 Sun. School 10:30 Prayer 10:45 Worship Communion 4pm Confirmation class</p>	<p>3 7 pm Outreach Comm. 8 pm AA/Al Anon</p>	<p>4 OFFICE CLOSED ELECTION Girl scouts church basement</p>	<p>5 ELM LEAF DEADLINE 6pm Beverly Farms - Jerry Wray 7 pm Boy Scout T - 7</p>	<p>6 1 pm Over 55 mtg. 6 pm Youth n Comm. 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7 pm Choir practice</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9 9:15 Sun. School 10:30 Prayer 10:45 Worship Honor Veterans Commitment Sunday 4pm Confirmation class</p>	<p>10 .8 pm AA/Al Anon</p>	<p>11 Over 55 trip</p>	<p>12 7 pm Boy Scout T-7</p>	<p>13 6 pm Youth n Comm. 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7 pm Choir practice</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 Presbytery meeting John Knox PC Florissant, MO</p>
<p>16 9:15 Sun. School 10:30 Prayer 10:45 Worship 4pm Confirmation class</p>	<p>17 7pm Deacons meet 8 pm AA/Al Anon 17</p>	<p>18 Girl scouts church basement</p>	<p>19 7 pm Boy Scout T - 7</p>	<p>20 6 pm Youth n Comm. 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7 pm Choir practice</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>

MISSION STUDY TEAM REPORT
SESSION MEETING: SEPTEMBER 23, 2008

Whereas, Elm Street Presbyterian Church was a neighborhood church but has changed with the times as numbers of attending have gone down and has become a family church. And that's not all bad! We are very loving and caring of each other. That is not to say, at times, we don't have differences – but isn't that normal as a family?

Whereas, after having read the questionnaires that the congregation filled out, the consensus is that in order to continue God's work we all know we have to step out of the box and ask God to guide us as we ask another Presbyterian Church to join us or we join them to pursue the talents that we all have. We'd love to see us make the move as a united family, move with our mission work we do so well and our assets, and do it because that's what we want to do. Not because somebody else is telling us what to do! This is hard! Real hard to do! But if we stay united in God's work it can be done with his blessing.

Whereas, the life cycle of a church has its beginning, growth, peak, followed by a decline and death. However, within the context of that cycle churches experience many high points and low points that can change the direction of a church. It appears that God has led our churches into a very unique set of circumstances. Within a very short time all four churches of Alton will be going through the process of losing a pastor, self examination and finding new leadership. This is one of the most challenging periods for any church. The fact that all our PCUSA churches are going through this painful experience, may offer a window of opportunity to make a very bold and powerful statement of Christian faith and outreach. We recommend that all Alton churches (and possibly the Fosterburg church as well) enter into discussions to form a unified Alton church.

Whereas, we can only speak for Elm Street, but much of this may be true about other churches as well. Checking our pledges, other income

Response to the Mission Study Team's Recommendation

Richard Sisk, Sandy Krug and Bill Bott of the Mission Study Team attended the Session meeting on Tuesday, September 23, 2008 and presented their report to the Session. Other team members not present were Jean Bryant, Mary Cordes and Ann McLaughlin.

Richard read the report to the Session and after a discussion, Lyndal Colburn made a motion to accept their report, thanking them for their work and approved following their recommendations 1. To immediately initiate talks with all the area PCU.S.A. churches, to see if there is any acceptance to the idea of a United Alton Presbyterian Church: 2. To establish among all interested churches, a task force whose duty it will be to finalize the particulars of church merger: and 3. For Session to approve the hiring of a supply pastor or CLP at ESPC for the interim period. Chance Shewmake seconded the motion. Motion carried.

It was agreed to by consensus not to dissolve the Mission Study Team and keep it intact until a task force of area churches are in place.

For recommendation # 1 it was agreed that Rev. Mason and Cathy Bryant would contact Presbytery about setting up a meeting with the other Alton churches as soon as possible. Recommendation # 2 can not be done until the meeting is held and depends on the response of the churches.

For recommendation # 3 a team was set up to design and then recommend to the Session what kind of leadership we will want in the interim. The committee is composed of Rev. Mason, Kathy Steinmann and myself.

*Maryjoy Bryant
Clerk of Session*

Elm Leaf Prayer Concerns - October - November 2008

"Members"

Esther & Bill Bott
Florence & Dan Earnhardt
Nellie Smithee
Evert Kingery
Jeannette Greene
Richard & Sonia Hetge
Lois Mitchell
Jean Freer
Tim Shewmake
Harry Fessler

"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
Jean Freer.....Eunice Smith Nsg Home
Sonia Hetge.....Eldercare Nsg. Home

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.....Kathy Steinmann
Carol Jo & Don Domesick, Helen Waggoner.....Carole Springgate
Linda Baze, Ann Slaughter.....Stolze's
Rose Ann Stice & Bill Dieu.....Bill Stone
Carol Wagner.....Sandy Krug
Ann Schubert.....Ann McLaughlin
Barb Roth.....The Bryant Family
Glenna Pickett.....Debbie Wallace
Margo & Robert Greenwell.....Debbie Wallace
Debbie Davis.....The Wrays
Kathie Rain
Betty Mason.....Rev. Mason's mother
Dylan Ross.....Terry Shewmake
Patty Stalcup.....co-worker of Mary Cordes
Jerry Whitten, Melonie Biever, Mary Kaiser.....Ann McLaughlin
Scott Bryant.....Cathy Bryant's son
Dorothy Conner.....friend of Mildred Maguire
The family of Jean Freer
Carlotta Rapien.....Friend of Katy Jarman
David Jarman.....Dan Jarman's uncle

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

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