

*W*inter

Change is in the air again. We know the signs of change as we experience the Halloween parade, the changing colors of the leaves, the election and the rotation of our decorations from goblins to horns o'plenty.

Other changes include the news that all the Alton Presbyterian churches dedicated themselves to serious talk regarding a common discussion of our destiny. Each church will soon appoint representatives who will join a task force regarding one Alton Presbyterian Church. There are still no details, just a common prayer that God will show us how to enlarge our Presbyterian witness to our city.

There is excitement about the season also. Our economy gives us the opportunity to refocus on the reason for thanking God and celebrating Christ's birth. We don't need to spend lots of money to do that. This year we can spend lots of time spoiling each other with our company. God gives us that energy this year. A spiritual energy to say, "God bless you in the new year," or "Let's pray for the exciting future of our church."

This year put Christ on your calendar and open yourself to the new things Jesus will do in your life.

God bless you,

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, December 31, 2008

ESPC Web Site
www.geocities.com/espcaiton

LITURGISTS
December 7 - Debbie Wallace
14 - Richard Sisk
21 - Marjory Bryant
28 -

USHERS
December
Lyndal Colburn, Richard Hetge,
Audrey Stewart and Zachary Bryant

There are a few open usher spots for the last two Sundays in December. Ushers are needed for January. If you can't usher every Sunday of the month sign up for the Sundays you can. Please volunteer. See Marj Bryant

COMMUNION SERVERS

December 7

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

December 21

Cathy Bryant, Chr., Audrey Stewart,
Nancy Bailey, Teri Darr
Emily Paddock (set up & serve)

January 4, 2009

Kathy Steinmann, Chr.,
Marj Bryant, Nancy Bailey,
Sandy Krug, Ann McLaughlin
Debbie Wallace (set up & serve)

ATTENDANCE

11/9 - 51, 11/16 - 42, 11/23 - 49, 11/30 - 52

BIRTHDAYS

December
8.....Willia Humenick
9.....Helen Foster
13.....Marilyn Stephens
14.....Tanya Sisk
15.....Tess Phelps
16.....Jamie McLaughlin
18.....Joshua Shewmake
20.....Mildred Maguire
21.....Pat Gross
 Emily Schultz
23.....Robert Bryant II
28.....Lauren McLaughlin
29.....Garrett Oxford
31.....Lori Wedding

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

THANK YOU'S

To *Marjorie Johnson* for the good job she is doing sending out the cards for ESPC.

To *Zada and Chance Shewmake* for providing the doughnuts for the Coffee Hours.

To the *Ann McLaughlin family and the Confirmation Class (Hannah Auston, Zachary Bryant, Jamie McLaughlin and Michael Stolze)* for providing the meal for the Salvation Army on November 29, 2008.

CRISIS FOOD CENTER REPORT

ESPC sent 99 items to the Crisis Food Center in late October and early November plus 71 items the Confirmation Class had collected.

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, this past month it has mostly been water bills. Their money can go fast. **They are currently selling cutlery as a fund raiser. 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 did not meet in October. They met November 25, 2008 with Rev. Mason as moderator. The Session approved:

1. The minutes of the previous meeting and the treasurer's report.
2. Sunday, January 18, 2009 for the Annual Congregational meeting and potluck.
3. Call a congregational meeting for Dec. 7, to purpose the options for pastoral care when Rev. Mason is gone.
4. The request for the wedding of Sarah Paddock and Christopher Williams at ESPC on January 10, 2009
5. To pay our per capita to Presbytery in monthly installments out of funds available.
6. To collect the Christmas Joy offering on Sunday, December 28, 2008.

The Per Capita amount this year is \$22.96 per member.

ESPC received a one time grant from the Energy Assistance Foundation in the amount of \$840.00 for our power bill.

Outreach Committee

Wants to remind you that as you change from your fall 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 Schnuck's

The Outreach Committee is again providing Christmas gifts for families of Arms of Love

There is a Christmas Tree in the church basement with cards giving a person's name and what they desire for Christmas. Take several cards and give this Christmas to those in need.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Helen Foster will be celebrating her 100th Birthday with an Open House on December 7, 2008 from 2:00-4:00 pm at the Fountains 1000 Airport Rd, Godfrey All from ESPC are invited and they request NO GIFTS.



Salvation Army Bell Ringing at the Godfrey Schnucks on Saturday, December 6, 2008

Congregational Meeting immediately following worship on Sunday, December 7.



Order your poinsettias now. They will be red with bow and cover in 6 1/2 inch pots. Cost \$9.00 and must be ordered by Dec. 8, 2008

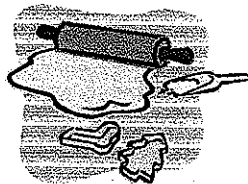
See Marj Bryant or call the church office.

**Deacon Mitten Sundays
November 30 and December 7, 2008**

ESPC will man the lights at Rock Spring
Park Christmas Wonderland on Saturday,
December 20, 2008.



Christmas Cantata
"The Love Of God At Christmas"
Sunday, December 14, 2008



Christmas Brunch
will be on Sunday, December 14, 2008
The last day to sign up will be Tuesday,
December 9, 2008.

Christmas Eve Service
December 24, 2008 at 5:30 pm
The Confirmation Class will be confirmed
Communion by intinction



Annual Congregational Meeting and
Potluck will be Sunday, January 18, 2009
After worship

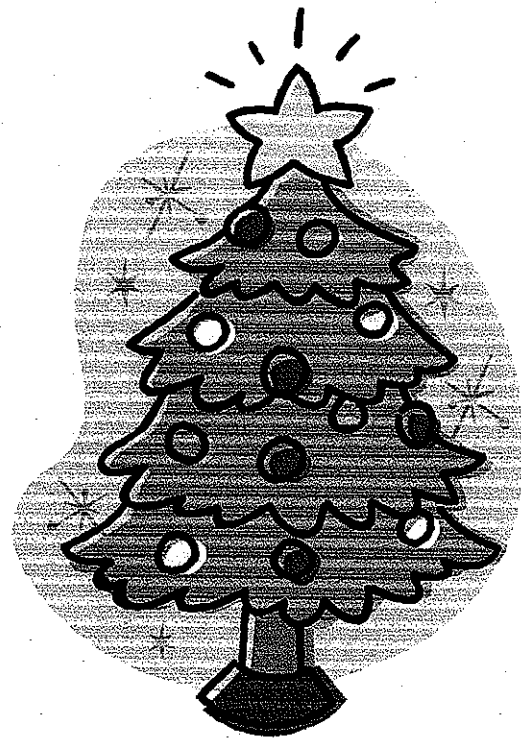
Over 55 -
December 10, Wednesday- Tour of Conoco
Phillips Wood River Refinery, Sold out.
December 28, 2008, Sunday - Fox Theatre to
see the Rockettes Cost \$85.00 includes bus and
tickets. Get your reservations as soon as
possible. We have 30 tickets, may be able to get
more but not in the same section. 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

FESTIVAL OF TREES
12th Street Presbyterian Church
Saturday, December 13, 2008
10:00 am to 5:00 pm
Holiday Ham Dinner
11:00 am to 3:00 pm Adults - \$8.00,
Children 6-10 \$4.00 Age 5 and under free.
Carryout available
Six Professionally Decorated Trees -
Raffle tickets \$1.00 each or
6 for \$5.00 Drawing at 5:00 pm.
Need not be present to win.
Gift Shop, Holiday Boutique, Baked
Goods, Homemade Candies



Elm Leaf Prayer Concerns - December 2008

"Members"

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

"In The Nursing Home"

Pat Gross..... Willow Rose
Lorene Peterson... St. Patrick's Residence
Clarabel Park..... Royal Oak Care Ctr.
Gladys Chappee..... Alton Memorial Hosp.
Marjorie Johnson.... White Hall Nsg & Rehab Ctr.
Willanette Ball..... Methodist Village
Ruth Wilson..... Robing's Manor
Helen Foster..... The Fountains
Gertrude Haynes.... The Fountains
Jean Freer..... Eunice Smith Nsg Home
Sonia Hetge..... Jerseyville Manor
Mary Calendar..... Robing's Manor

Relatives and Friends of ESPC

Gertrude Smith, Hazel Morgan..... John Kennedy
Betty Bishop, Mary Calendar..... Chance Shewmake & Katy Jarman
Mary Kathryn & Marcia Slifika..... Chance Shewmake & Katy Jarman
Dorothy Crabtree..... Bill Stone and Louise Norman's sister
Anna Hopkins..... Kathy Steinmann
Carol Jo & Don Domescik, Helen Waggoner..... Carole Springgate
Linda Baze, Ann Slaughter..... Stolze's
Rose Ann Stice & Bill Dieu..... Bill Stone
Carol Wagner..... Sandy Krug
Barb Roth..... The Bryant Family
Glenna Pickett..... Debbie Wallace
Margo & Robert Greenwell..... Debbie Wallace
Debbie Davis..... The Wrays
Betty Mason..... Rev. Mason's mother
Dylan Ross..... Terry Shewmake
Melonie Biever, Mary Kaiser..... Ann McLaughlin
Dorothy Conner..... friend of Mildred Maguire
Carlotta Rapien..... Friend of Katy Jarman
The Jeff Pace Family
The Reynolds family..... Cherilyn Trusty's Family
Justin & Amy Manker..... Kathy Steinmann's daughter and son-in-law

First PC - Grace Summers, Dick & Liz Johnson, Debbie Gates, Tony Ingles, 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.**

DECEMBER 2008

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
7 9:15 Sun. School 10:30 Prayer 10:45 Worship - Communion - Congregational mtg. Mitten Sunday 4pm Confirm. class	8 .8 pm AA/Al Anon Pm Kathy Steinmann CE Bldg LL	9 6:30 pm VBS meeting At CAPC	10 Over 55 trip Conoco Refinery -WR 9am-2pm Kathy Steinmann CE Bldg 7 pm Boy Scout T-7	11 6:30pm Girl Scouts 7 pm Choir practice	12 13 Rev. Mason gone	13 Rev. Mason gone
14 10:30 Prayer 10:45 Worship Cantata Christmas Brunch Rev. Mason gone	15 8 pm AA/Al Anon	16 6:30 pm Girl scouts church basement 7pm Deacons and Elders annual meeting Session to follow	17 7 pm Boy Scout T - 7	18 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 6:30 pm GS Neighborhood mtg CE Bldg classroom	19	20 ESPC at Christmas Wonderland Rock Spring Park
21 9:15 Sun. School 10:30 Prayer 10:45 Worship Communion Session meets with Confirmation class	22 .8 pm AA/Al Anon	23	24 5:30pm Christmas Eve Service - Communion Confirmation Class confirmed	25 Office Closed Christmas Day	26	27
28 9:15 Sun. School 10:30 Prayer 10:45 Worship Christmas Joy Offering collected Over 55 trip to Fox	29 8 pm AA/Al Anon	30	31	JANUARY 1, 2009 Office Closed	2	3