

Two

The sum of one plus one, the number required to invite Jesus into your presence, and the years that flew by between you and me. So much happened. You endured way too many sermons, fantastic anthems which will continue and questionable jokes from the pulpit. I think we got along rather well in such a short time.

We shared the deaths of the saints, we baptized, and married special ones who now see you as their home church. Endings and beginnings were part of our ministry and it ain't over yet. The bell tolls but it does not toll for thee.

Your mission team approved the concept of a region wide conversation among Presbyterians. This will begin before I leave but you will continue the talks to their spiritual end. The feasibility study will also continue as you lead the area in planting a new Presbyterian church in Godfrey. I can hardly wait to see what you do with these dreams.

You will elect a Pastor Nominating Committee to search for a new Designated Pastor. Once again God will hold you, protect you and guide you to elect a wonderful pastor. Your leaders will keep you together and ensure that excellent pastoral care is provided by your deacons and elders during the interim period.

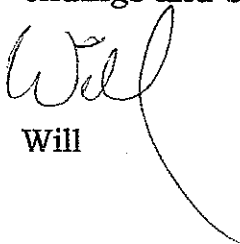
I want to thank you for ministering to me throughout this time. You are a loving, and highly skilled congregation. My memories of all the

special missions, worship services and appreciation Sundays will live on in my heart. There is really no one like you.

Many congregations wonder why people do not choose their church and why pastors choose to leave. I believe that question is as difficult to answer as why do people choose to join you and why do pastors choose to serve you? I know God brought us together because we needed each other. I never told you this, but when you voted on my candidacy, God whispered to me saying, "Will, if you say no, you're an idiot."

The rest is history and my love for you will live with me forever. I believe that God does not waste people who love the Lord. Whatever you do, stop counting the empty pews and continue counting the amazing people who are there Sunday after Sunday. You are prepared for the future together because you have never been a building, you have always been the people who do ministry on Elm Street.

When you are out West, come see me in Seattle. Maria and I already speak of you as family. May God watch over all of us throughout our endings and beginnings.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Will". The signature is written in dark ink and has a long, sweeping tail that extends downwards and to the right.

Will

PS Thank you Hannah, Jamie, Michael, and Zack for being the best Confirmation class ever!

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, February 18, 2009**

**ESPC Web Site
www.geocities.com/espicalton**

LITURGISTS

**January 18 - Tanya Sisk
25 - Debbie Wallace
February 1 - Ann McLaughlin
8 - Lyndal Colburn
15 - Chance Shewmake
22 - Marjory Bryant
March 1 - Lyndal Colburn
8 - Kathy Steinmann**

USHERS

**January
John Kennedy and Jane Hellrung
February
Jean Bryant**

**There are open usher spots for January and February. If you can't usher every Sunday of the month sign up for the Sundays you can.
Please volunteer. See Marj Bryant**

COMMUNION SERVERS

ATTENDANCE

12/14 - 91, 12/21 - 47,
12/24 - 80, 12/28 - 39,
01/04/09 - 43, 01/11- 41

BIRTHDAYS

January
2.....Emily Paddock
12.....Caitlin McLaughlin
15.....Marjory Bryant
17.....Kathy Steinmann
18.....Richard Hetge
 Clarabel Park
25.....Dorothy Waggoner
28.....Norma Paisley
29.....Bryan Lichtsinn
31.....Jenny Huber

February

2.....Nikki Busler
9.....Tony Stone
11.....Daniel Jarman
15.....Albert Kaltenbaeck
17.....Joy Bryant
18.....Verna Wilson
19.....Becky Saville
20.....Arlene Walker
25.....Kathy Shewmake
28.....Ashlyn McCreary

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

Harry Fessler would like to thank everyone for their cards, prayers, visits, etc. when he was down with a fractured hip.

Helen Foster would like to thank everyone for helping her celebrate her 100th birthday. For the cards, gifts, flowers and the many visitors and good wishes and to Rev. Mason

*Special Thanks to those who provided the
Christmas Brunch on December 14*

OUR SYMPATHY

To the Family of *Gladys Chappee* who went to
be with the Lord on December 3, 2008

And

The Family of *Gertrude "Boots" Haynes* who
died December 25, 2008.

CONGRATULATIONS

Katelynn Renee Saville

daughter of Jeff and Becky Saville
was baptized on Sunday, December 7, 2008

Sarah Paddock and Christopher Williams

who were married at ESPC on Saturday
January 10, 2009.

NEW MEMBERS

**The Confirmation Class completed their
classes and became members of ESPC at the
Christmas Eve Service. The are:**

Hannah Auston

1314 Ridgefield Drive
Godfrey, IL 62035

Zachary Bryant

321 Hand Drive
Godfrey, IL 62035

Jamie McLaughlin

372 Hand Drive
Godfrey, IL 62035

Michael Stolze

332 Hand Drive
Godfrey, IL 62035

CRISIS FOOD CENTER REPORT

ESPC sent 73 items to the Crisis Food Center in
December.

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. They
are planning the Spaghetti Supper for March.

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. The Annual Congregational meeting and
potluck for January 18, 2009.
3. Approved the wedding of Sarah Paddock
and Chris Williams to be held at ESPC.
4. To take before the congregation on
Sunday, December 7, 2008 the Interim
Leadership recommendations

A Special Congregational meeting was held
on December 7, 2008 regarding the Leadership
during the Interim period after Rev. Mason
leave. It was decided to call a Designated Pastor
for a 2 year term, which could be extended to
four years and to work a 20 hour week.

The Session met with the Confirmation Class
on Sunday, December 21, 2008 where they were
questioned by the Elders and approved for
membership.

The Session and Deacons had their annual
meeting on Tuesday, January 4, 2009 followed
by a Session meeting postponed from December
16, 2008 because of bad weather and the
holidays. At this meeting we approved

1. The church budget for 2009
2. Reviewed the membership
3. Appointed an Elder Commissioner for the
February Presbytery meeting
4. Plan a Retreat for ESPC officers.
5. Purchase a new CD player for the church.

Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee is looking for
someone to take over as Coffee Hour
coordinator. The job entails getting supplies

(paper products, coffee, sugar, etc) and getting people to host the coffee hours. If you need more information or can serve as coordinator please see Sue Bryant.

SINCE THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE HAD NO OFFERS OF A COFFEE HOUR COORDINATOR, THEY HAVE DECIDED TO HAVE A COFFEE HOUR ON THE SECOND AND LAST SUNDAYS OF THE MONTH. JANUARY THRU APRIL coffee hours have been planned. If you would like to volunteer to host a coffee hour on one of the other Sundays, see Sue Bryant.

Since we will have a coffee hour only on the second and last Sundays of the month, on the Sundays when no coffee hour is scheduled if you make coffee and get out the supplies you will be responsible for cleaning up after worship **The Outreach Committee will again be selling coupons for White's Nursery beginning in March.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 18, 2009 Annual Congregational Meeting and Potluck following the Worship Service on that day

Spaghetti-Supper-in-March

The Outreach Committee needs volunteers for Saturday, Feb. 7, 2009 to provide the Salvation Army Dinner. See JoAnn Phelps if you can help.

**Martin Luther King, Jr.
Celebration Weekend**

**Westminster PC 5300 Delmar Blvd
St. Louis, MO**

**Sat. Jan. 17, 2009 9:00 am - 12:30 pm -
workshop**

**Sun. Jan. 18, 2009 3:00 pm - Worship
(see flyer)**

College Avenue Presbyterian Church is inviting **ALL MEN** of the AREA to a Special Community Service Presentation regarding little used Veteran's Benefits. Veterans, Widows of Veterans and Seniors

could qualify. The meeting will be held at CAPC on Thursday, January 22, 2009 at 9:00 am, Breakfast will be served. Call Don Jacoby at 462-9561 to make a reservation. See Marj if you want a little more information.

OVER 55 EVENTS

If you would like to receive a copy of the **Over 55 Newsletter** send \$5.00 payable to Over 55 to the College Ave. Presbyterian Church, PO Box 1081 Alton, IL 62002. Keeps you advised of the upcoming Over 55 trips.

Friday, February 27, 2009 - St. Louis Symphony Coffee Concert featuring a Dvorjak Piano Concerto with Garrick Ohlsson and a Saint-Saens Symphony with an organ. After the concert, we will go to the Westport for a buffet lunch at Pujols. Cost is \$55.00 for the symphony, lunch and bus.

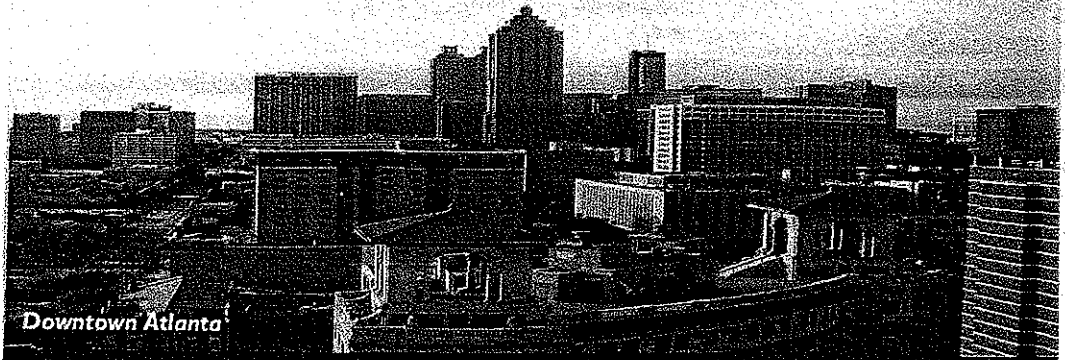
March 13, 2009 - Gilbert and Sullivan's Pirates of the Penzance at the Touhill. More details in the next newsletter. Meanwhile the Committee is checking into a visit to St. Genevieve, the Union Avenue Opera, Rockome Garden and an outdoor Festival of Flowers

OTHER NOTES

FOUND in the CE Bldg. Fellowship Hall: A short white coat with a hood. See Marj Bryant if it is yours or you know the owner.

Opportunity for Seniors to earn tax-free money to supplement their income. Federal government funds a program that allows men and women 60 years of age or older to supplement their income by volunteering as a classroom mentor for school children. See Marj for more information if you are interested.

ESPC helped raise \$593.83 for the Salvation Army by ringing bells at the Godfrey Schnuck's store in December 2008. Thanks to all who participated.



Downtown Atlanta

What we are up to now:

For the past few months we have been seeking God as to our next steps here in Atlanta. Most of you know that we have been praying for God to reveal His plan for us not only for our time here in Atlanta but also for long term vision. As we prayed, God spoke to us about taking a season off from our training role at YWAM Atlanta. We heard God say that we were to focus more on ministry within the downtown area. We have been establishing relationships within the Muslim community and working with international University students at Georgia Tech. Currently we are in the process of finding housing downtown near Georgia Tech.

God also spoke to Shaun about going back to school. We feel like God is leading us to nations that do not welcome missionaries. In order to live and work long-term in countries, some require degrees or purpose to live in the countries. Naomi is also planning on pursuing more medical experience as a nurse. As of right now we are not sure of the outcome of these steps but trust God to continue to use us as we seek Him in every area of our life. We believe that God can use us to touch someone's life at school, work, missions or even at the grocery store if we are willing. We are still full-time in ministry and have no steady income but as always God has proven faithful every month.

"...the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God" - 2 Cor. 4:4

Current Discipleship Training School:

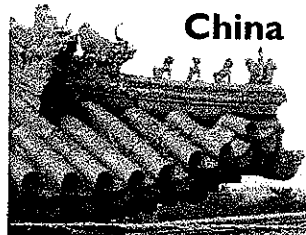


We are very blessed to have 7 students this school year. They are currently enrolled in a 5 month Discipleship Program. Our students are from Bosnia, China, Canada and the USA. Their local outreaches consist of praying and asking God where He wants them to go in the city and who to talk to. It has been so awesome to see God's faithfulness as the students practice hearing God's voice. In January they will begin a 2 month outreach to Asia with one month being in China. The school year has gone by so quickly and I am so blessed to get to see God use them in tremendous ways.

Prayer Needs:

- Current DTS to continue to seek God and be used by Him
- For DTS students who are the only Christian in their family
- For finances for students, staff and property of YWAM Atlanta
- For the upcoming outreach to Asia in January
- For open doors to move a team in the city of Atlanta

China



This past summer we took a team to China for 4 weeks. We applied for a 30 day visa but the government gave us a one year visa which is a miracle from God!

We assisted in teaching conversational English with students 3 hours a day and did English discussion groups twice a week. There were so many great opportunities to learn about Chinese culture as well as talk about the differences in American culture. The students are taught in school that there is no god and that Christianity is a western idea. They are stunned to find out that Christianity started in the east and that God speaks Chinese. It was an exciting time to see God move and use us in the process. We made lots of new friends and plan to continue building relationships for the future. We also saw several students come to the Lord and many more new believers discipled. It is so important that the new believers be discipled so that they can continue to grow and be surrounded by other believers for encouragement. While doing one of our English corners a girl overheard me say that I have certain values because I was a Christian. Her face lit up and she said that she had attended church once before and the people there were really nice and wanted to know how she could follow Jesus. This was amazing to me to see how God is already working in the hearts before we even arrive. The next day we met with her and she gave her life to God and she was so overjoyed! Somehow they find out about God but do not know how to believe. This is just one of many similar stories. Please keep praying that more hear about the good news of Christ and become discipled.

We also had the opportunity to do prayer walks in the city as well as around some Olympic stadiums. We believe that many people came to Christ during the Olympics but may not know how many until we see them in Heaven.

Thank you for all your prayers and support during our time in China. If you are interested in joining us on a future trip or would like more info in supporting a Chinese student to attend a Discipleship Training School in the U.S. Please let us know.



Summer Palace—Beijing

January & February 2009

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
18 9:15 Sun. School 10:30 Prayer 10:45 Worship Annual Cong. Potluck & meeting	19 7pm Deacons meet 8 pm AA/AI Anon	20 6:30 pm Girl Scouts church basement	21 7 pm Boy Scout T-7	22 6:30 pm Girl Scout Neighborhood mtg. 7 pm Choir practice	23	24
25 9:15 Sun. School 10:30 Prayer 10:15 Youth choir 10:45 Worship	26 .8 pm AA/AI Anon	27 7 pm Session	28 7 pm Boy Scout T-7	29 7 pm Choir practice	30	31
FEBRUARY 1 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 Prayer 10:45 Worship - Communion	2 7 pm Outreach Committee meets 8 pm AA/AI Anon	3 6:30 pm Girl scouts church basement	4 6pm Jerry Wray at Beverly farms 7 pm Boy Scout T - 7	5 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7pm Choir practice	6	7 ESPC Salvation Army meal
8 9:15 Sun. School 10:30 Prayer 10:45 Worship	9 .8 pm AA/AI Anon	10	11 7 pm Boy Scout T-7	12 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7pm Choir practice	13	14
15 9:15 Sun. School 10:30 Prayer 10:45 Worship	16 7pm Deacons meet 8 pm AA/AI Anon	17 :30 pm Girl scouts church basement	18 ELM LEAF DEALINE 7 pm Boy Scout T-7	19 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7pm Choir practice	20	21 Presbytery Meeting 3 rd PC Moline Acres, MO

<u>Sunday</u> 22 9:15 Sun. School 10:30 Prayer 10:45 Worship	<u>Monday</u> 23 8 pm AA/Al Anon	<u>Tuesday</u> 24 7pm Session meets	<u>Wednesday</u> 25 7 pm Boy Scout T-7	<u>Thursday</u> 26 6:30 pm Girl Scout Neighborhood mtg. 7 pm Choir practice	<u>Friday</u> 27 Over 55 Coffee Concert	<u>Saturday</u> 28 Shewmake use C.E. Bldg. Fellowship Hall
MARCH 1 9:15 Sun. School 10:30 Prayer 10:45 Worship - Communion	2 7 pm Outreach Committee meets 8 pm AA/Al Anon	3 6:30 pm Girl scouts church basement	4 6pm Jerry Wray at Beverly farms 7 pm Boy Scout T - 7	5 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7pm Choir practice	6	7
8 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 Prayer 10:45 Worship						

Elm Leaf Prayer Concerns - January & February 2009

"Members"

Esther & Bill Bott
Florence & Dan Earnhardt
Nellie Smithee
Evert Kingery
Jeannette Greene
Richard & Sonia Hetge
Lois Mitchell
Bill Stone
The family of Gladys Chappee
The family of Gertrude Haynes

"In The Nursing Home"

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

Relatives and Friends of ESPC

Gertrude Smith, Hazel Morgan..... John Kennedy
Betty Bishop, Mary Calendar..... Chance Shewmake & Katy Jarman
Mary Kathryn, Sharon & Marcia Slifka..... 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
The family of 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
The family of Carlotta Rapien..... Friend of Katy Jarman
The Reynolds family..... Cheryl Trusty's Family
Justin & Amy Manker..... Kathy Steinmann's daughter and son-in-law
Scott Bryant and Julie Wehling..... Son and daughter of Cathy Bryant
The family of Gina Salas..... Tom Wyatt
Greg Lister..... friend of ESPC

First PC - Grace Summers, Dick & Liz Johnson, Debbie Gates, Tony Ingles, Charlene Hamilton,
The family of Jack Maloney, Linda Campbell, Hal Hahn, Norma Landiss, Ed Keller

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