

SUMMERTIDE?

The Christian Liturgical Year is pretty organized—even in the Reformed Tradition, which does not include as many special celebrations or saints days on its calendar. From winter through spring the Church seasons come and go pretty fast. Advent. Christmas. Epiphany. Lent. Easter. Pentecost Sunday. But then comes the long, long season we are in now from June through November. This is a season which is hardly broken or punctuated by special dates. It just goes on and on for half the year.

As I have grown up in the Methodist and Lutheran and now the Presbyterian traditions, I have heard this long season we are in now referred to by several names. The Methodists of the 1950s and 60s call this season “Kingdomtide.” Lutherans call the season “Pentecost.” The Presbyterian Book of Worship calls the season, “Ordinary Time.”

“Tide” was the old fashioned English word or word ending that meant time. It also indicated the time of development and change, as in the flow of tides. So we might talk about season we are in now as “Pentecost-time,” or “Spirit-time,” meaning “time to live in the Spirit”! We might call the season “Kingdom-Time,” meaning time to live in the spirit of the prayer that Jesus taught us, in the spirit of the Kingdom of God that Jesus announced was arriving, right down here on earth, the Kingdom of Love and Peace and Justice, as defined by the words and deeds of Jesus.

In the spirit of that miraculously-coming and Divinely-sent kingdom we might call these days “Ordinary time.” But when we do we certainly do not mean “ordinary” in the worldly sense of “boring,” or “same ole, same ole,” or “normal” in the sense “the more things change, the more they stay the same.” It never means “the dog-days of summertide.”

The “Ordinary time” of the new season that God creates is the sending the kingdom of heaven down to earth. It is the time of the New Creation. “Behold, look at what I am doing now! I am making all things NEW!”

God’s “new ordinary” is God’s gift of resurrection, renewal, new birth, new living coming home to us! God’s new ordinary time is our time of new growing, increasing and maturing in the wisdom and uprightness that God gives to us now. “Behold! The kingdom of God is within you!” In God in Christ in the Spirit we are not only invited, but also empowered to live ordinarily as extraordinarily new!

God’s new season for us is not just to be named, but lived! Live it up! Live it out!

Pastor Bill

Office Hours
Monday through Friday
8:30 am – 12:30 pm

To start the **Prayer Chain** for someone in need of prayers call Mary Cordes at 618-465-1760 or 462-0677 ext. 2835 or Marj Bryant at 618-466-5421 or 466-6005.

ESPC Web Site
<http://espcalton.tripod.com>
<http://espc.weebly.com>

LITURGISTS
July 13 – Tom Wyatt
August

USHERS
July – Chance and Zada Shewmake

Please volunteer to usher. It takes more than one, the same ones are doing it over and over, let's everyone take a turn if you are able. A Sign-up sheet is in the sanctuary.

COMMUNION SERVERS

August – Audrey Stewart, Chr.
Richard Sisk,
John Kennedy (set up & serve)

September – Lyndal Colburn, Chr.
Mary Cordes,
Richard Hetge (set up & serve)

ATTENDANCE
4/6-27, 4/13-44, 4/20-61, 5/4-30,
5/11-37, 5/18-34, 5/25-20, 6/1-26,
6/8-25, 6/15-21, 6/22-20, 6/29-17

SYMPATHY

Our sympathy to the family of **Willanette "Billie" Ball**
Billie died on Tuesday, May 13, 2014 at the age of 98. She served ESPC as a Deacon, Elder, Sunday school teacher, a member of the choir and in many other capacities.

BIRTHDAYS

JULY

- 1..... Bobbi Wray
Patrick Thatcher
- 13..... Terri Darr
- 19..... Belinda Gunning
- 21..... Steve Springgate
- 22..... Chance Shewmake
- 24..... Janice Gremaud
- 28..... Cathy Bryant
- 30..... Ann McLaughlin

AUGUST

- 3..... Zachary Bryant
Sandy Krug
- 6..... Andy Hruby
Sara Keene Wolf
- 7..... Timothy Shewmake
Rev. Kenneth DeWall
- 9..... Maggie Paddock
- 10..... Michael Wyatt
- 11..... Mary Cordes
- 14..... Carol Jo Domescik
- 15..... Mark Springgate
- 28..... Kayla Wray

SEPTEMBER

- 4..... All Wallace
- 10..... Mark Stone
- 11..... Tyler Trusty
- 27..... John Kennedy

If I have missed your birthday, let me know Marj

THANK YOU

To the members of ESPC, Thank You for the beautiful greeting card, your thoughtfulness meant so much. Best wishes to all and God bless!

Sincerely, Louise Norman

Dear Elm Street, Thank you for recognizing my finishing high school with the gift and card. I am looking forward to the new horizons.

Thank you, Tyler Trusty

Thanks to Elm Street Presbyterian for their continued support, it's recognized and appreciated.

Don and Carol Jo Domescik

Dear Elm Street Family, Thank you for the graduation gift and reception after church. I appreciate all that my church family has done for me over the years.

Michael Stolze

ESPC Family, Kind deeds are like little prayers, Thank you so much. Thank you for the graduation gift. Graduation was something I worked very hard for and it would have been impossible without the love and support.

Thanks again! Breanne Shewmake Bonnell

ESPC Members, Thank you for recognizing and helping me celebrate my college graduation. I appreciate the love and support throughout the years.

Love, Kayla Wray – Thank you

Stewardship A big THANK YOU to everyone who helped plan, donated, set up and ran our ESPC Rummage Sale. We made about \$520.00 that will go towards our electric bill so we can keep the air on a bit longer. The church basement was full and the sidewalk overflowed! A special thank you to those of you who gave up both Friday night and Saturday Morning! Your help was invaluable!

Audrey Stewart, Chair.

DEACONS REPORT

The Deacons are still collecting empty ink-jet cartridges with printer heads. The Spaghetti Supper was a success, 202 tickets were received at the door. \$1,782.31 was collected, \$100.00 replaced the startup change and \$84.50 was made on sold items, such as sauce, applesauce, etc. The profit without the sold items was \$1,597.81 which included donations and keep the change remarks from people buying tickets. The Deacons voted to give gas vouchers of \$15.00 to those in great need of gas every six months instead of only one time a year. They sent

\$300.00 to the Crisis Food Center to purchase canned fruit which is not usually donated. Also in the last newsletter I neglected to put in the numbers for Mitten Sunday. We collected 34 hats, 31 pairs of gloves and 4 scarves. The Deacons do not meet in June, July and August.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Vacation Bible School was held at the Nature Institute June 8th through June 12th with a potluck on the 13th. Attendance was small but those that were there really enjoyed themselves. *Thanks to all of you from ESPC that gave their time to help.*

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The Outreach Committee meets on the third Monday of the month. Their income comes from their projects of selling White's Coupons, Scrip Rebates and Merchandise Pickup (the little yellow house for used clothing). They have given donations of \$100.00 to the Salvation Army, Community Hope Center, First Fruits, Angel Tree and the Kemmerer Home. They also support a boy through World Vision. The "Shut-in Calling List" has been revised by Sandy Krug. Each shut-in is seen at least once a month. They host a Coffee Hour once a month usually the first Sunday of the month and they would like maybe once a month for a group to go out to eat after the worship service and this was approved by Session... The committee helped host a coffee hour for the 2014 graduates. They are interested in starting a Bible Study in the fall. They will not meet in July and August unless something comes up they need to attend to.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

After sometime, the elevator is back in running condition. Of course they have all their usual up keep on both buildings going on and Richard Hetge has sprayed the weeds, which seem to be everywhere. Thanks to Kathy Steinmann and JoAnn Phelps for the beautiful flowers around the sign and front of the C.E. building.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The committee helped with the coffee hour and the gifts for the graduates. They will have met on July 10th to make plans for the rest of 2014.

SESSION INFORMATION

Session met on June 24th with 4 of 7 Elders present. They approved the following:

1. Allowed the Church Secretary attend a conference on Thursday, July 17th.
2. Change the next Session meeting to July 15th instead of the 22nd. As the secretary is to have surgery that day.
3. The Housing account will no longer be called or considered a housing account.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Organist Lucas W. Fletcher will be in concert at First Presbyterian Church in Alton on Sunday, July 20, 2014 at 4:00 pm with a reception following.

The Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy invites you to Share in the Worship of God and the Commissioning by the Presbytery of Ruling Elder Mark Wiley as Pastor for Son Light Parish on Sunday, August 3, 2014 2:00 pm at the First Presbyterian Church Knob and Reynolds Streets, Ironton, MO. A supper for Pastor Wiley will be held at the church immediately following the service. RSVP by July 27th.

Over 55 Ministry

If you would like to receive the newsletter send \$5.00 to Over 55 at ESPC 101 W. Elm St. Alton, IL 62002

August 27th, Wednesday – Spirit of Peoria Lunch Cruise, which lasts from 12 noon to 2:30 pm. We have only 30 tickets. Cost \$45.00. Drive yourself to the Loading Dock in Grafton to arrive there by 11:00 am where you will be given your ticket by a committee member. Our group will board together at the same time.

September 22nd, Monday – Three Ferry trip to Calhoun County with lunch at Wittmonds in Brussels. After lunch we will tour the Heartland Fish Processing Factory in Grafton. We have 30 tickets. Cost - \$50.00 per person. Leave CAPC at 9:30 am

October 10th Friday - St. Louis Symphony Coffee Concert with lunch at 1111 Mississippi

November 5th Wednesday – Bus tour of Principia College with lunch on campus There is a possibility this will be changed.

December 13, Saturday – St. Louis Symphony with Circus Flora performing with the Wallendas with lunch at 111 Mississippi.

Rev. Don Stribling, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Jerseyville invited ESPC to send some representatives to a Northeast Presbyterian Gathering on Monday, June 23rd to be held at his church. See the attached Docket which shows those invited, purpose, etc. Kathy Steinmann and I attended this meeting and I think we came away enlightened and encouraged. It seems like most of the churches have low membership, older congregations with the exception of Carrollton which recently received quite a few new members and had several baptisms. Besides this many do not have choirs or Sunday school classes. One church lost a family because they did not have a Sunday school. Some of the churches have a band. They all agreed their older church buildings were a strength and Kathy and I believe one of our strengths is our Organist/Choir Director. The following suggestions were agreed on by all was maybe sharing personnel and volunteers, sharing ideas, go to other churches events and the pastors swapping pulpits. We did agree to have one of the members from White Hall start a Web Site which will include links to all these churches and if a church has an event happening they will be highlighted. Of course we have nothing planned for the next two months to invite other Presbyterians to, too bad this meeting was not before our rummage sale. We are to meet again in August. If you have any ideas of what we can do let Kathy Steinmann or myself know.

Marj Bryant, Clerk of Session

Northeast Presbyterian Gathering

White Hall Carrollton Kampsville Hardin Jerseyville
Brighton Salem Elm Street

Docket

Self-Introductions

Name, Church, Role in the Church

Statement of Purpose - Don Stribling

First Jerseyville has weaknesses that without God's help will lead to the end our ability to participate in Christ's work in Jerseyville within a decade. So I reached out to you thinking you too might have weaknesses but that you might also have strengths that could help me and First Jerseyville exhibit the Kingdom of God in Jersey County, lead people to hear and accept Christ's call to become disciples, and nurture them and guide them in the gospel for the joy of God and all our neighbors; near and far.

Sharing Round I

What is a strength in your church that is attracting people to visit your church?

What is a weakness in your church that discourages visitors staying and from becoming members?

Let us give thanks to God for our strengths and ask God to show us a way forward in addressing our weakness.

Sharing Round II

How might we as group of Presbyterian churches working together build on your strength or help address your weakness?

Sharing Round III

What are you doing within the next two months that you would feel comfortable inviting other Presbyterians to participate in?

Let us pray for the Spirit to guide us to our next steps.

Adjournment

JULY 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 Over 55 trip	3	4 Office Closed	5
6 Worship 10 am communion	7	8	9	10 6 pm Worship committee mtg.	11	12
	8:00 pm AA/Anon		7 pm Boy Scouts			
13 10aip	14 8:00 pm AA/Anon	15 7pm Session meets	16 7 pm Boy Scouts	17 8am-3pm Church Secretary Conference Emmanuel Free Methodist	17	19
20 10 am Worship	21 8:00 pm AA/Anon	22	23 7 pm Boy Scouts	24	25	26
24 10 am Worship 12-5pm Sara Williams CE Bldg. LL	28 8:00 pm AA/Anon	29	30 7 pm Boy Scouts	31		

August 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 10 am Worship Communion	4 8:00 pm AA/Anon	5	6 7 pm Boy Scouts	7	8	9
10 Worship 10:00 am	11 8:00 pm AA/Anon	12	13 7 pm Boy Scouts	14 7pm Choir practice	15	16
24 Worship 10:00 am	25 8 pm AA/Anon	26 7 pm Session meets	27 Over 55 Lunch Cruise Spirit of Peoria 11am Grafton 7 pm Boy Scouts	28	29	31
31 Worship 10:00 am	<u>September 1</u> Office Closed Labor Day 8:00 pm AA/Anon	2	3 7 pm Boy Scouts	4 7 pm Choir Practice	5	6

Elm Leaf Prayer Concerns –July & August 2014

“Members”

Carole Springgate	Nancy Bailey
Nellie Smithee	Brent Phelps
Lois Mitchell	Dorothy Waggoner
Bob Watkins	Dan Jarman
Richard Hetge	Mildred Maguire

“In The Nursing Home”

Pat Gross.....Willow Rose
Esther & Bill Bott – Blu Fountain Nsg Home

Relatives and Friends of ESPC

Carol Jo & Don Domesick.....Carole Springgate
The Reynolds family.....Cherilyn Trusty’s Family
Kathy Shewmake.....Zada and Chance’s daughter

Mary Brown	Bill McClintock	Dave Cordes	Chuck Gable
Gary Ralston	Mary Brinkley	Andy Torrez	Carol Bryant
Dale Bailey	Torrie Kruse	Emmett Fitzgerald	Jessica Sutphin
Janet Vandegriff	Pat Slayton	Steven Wilfong	Cheryl Feco family
Pat Gorman	Verlene Schwalb	Hannah Paul	David Sanford
Sam Biggs	Gene and Anna Hopkins	Sandy Nicolet family	
Rose Marie and Roger Colburn			

The families of Willanette Ball and Debbie Wallace on the loss of her father

All who need prayers not mentioned but are in our hearts.

For ESPC: Courage, Unfailing Strength, Wisdom, Patience and Reinforced Faith

Please let me know if any of these people can be taken off of our prayer list.

Please call the church office at 466-5421

Thanks Marj Esther & Bill Bott – Blu Fountain Nsg