

Dear friends in faith,

The Gospel of Matthew describes the kingdom of heaven as a mustard seed. Although it is an extremely small seed, it grows into a great shrub and then becomes a tree where birds come and make their nests. Elm Street Presbyterian may not be the largest church in Giddings- Lovejoy Presbytery, but I can assure you that you are one of the greatest in terms of your faithfulness and the love that you express. God looks at things differently than the world does. Being faithful in the small things, we soon realize that we have been entrusted with bigger things and larger responsibilities. Parents know that this is how children develop into responsible adults. A parent does not dump a task upon a child for which that child has not been prepared. Instead, the parent gives the child tasks of increasing complexity and difficulty so that the child learns gradually and is not overwhelmed.

We are all learning together here about how to become faithful disciples. Because we are learning to be faithful in small things, God will continue to bless our efforts and prepare us to take on the greater tasks as we mature as followers of Christ. I am grateful to be serving as your pastor at this time and for the many things you are teaching me about discipleship and God's grace. May you continue to be blessed as you are a blessing to others.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Janet

NEW OFFICE HOURS STARTING**SEPTEMBER 15, 2011****Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday****8:30 am - 12:30 pm****Thursday 1:00 - 5:00 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.

Next Elm Leaf Deadline
Friday November 2, 2011

ESPC Web Site**<http://espcalton.tripod.com>****<http://espc.weebly.com>****LITURGISTS****September 4 – Richard Sisk**

11 – Service at Salem PC

18 – Marj Bryant

25 - Debbie Wallace

October 2 – Mary Cordes

9 –

16 –

23 – Debbie Wallace

30 –

November 6 – Mary Cordes

13 – Debbie Wallace

Liturgists are needed to fill in the open dates. Sign-up sheets are in the sanctuary.

USHERS**Please volunteer to usher.****Sign-up sheet is in the sanctuary.****COMMUNION SERVERS****September 4 – Richard Sisk, Chr.**

Marj Bryant, Debbie Wallace,

Richard Hetge (set-up & serve)

October 2 – Lyndal Colburn, Chr.

Tom Wyatt, Mary Cordes, /

Pam Stolze, Norma Waggoner

John Kennedy (set-up & serve)

November 6 – Karen Auston, Chr.

Kathy Steinmann, Sue Bryant,

Terri Darr, Ann McLaughlin

Tanya Sisk (set-up & serve)

ATTENDANCE

6/12- 32, 6/19 – 40, 6/26 – 34, 7/3 – 35,
7/10 – 32, 7/17 – 33, 7/24 – 40, 7/31 – 74,
8/7 – 34, 8/14 – 31, 8/21 – 30, 8/28 - 32

BAPTISM***Jackson Ryan Saville***

Son of Jeff and Becky Saville and

little brother to Katelyn

was baptized on Sunday, July 31, 2011

News of our recent graduates:***Lauren McLaughlin*** is attending

Culver-Stockton College in Canton, Mo on a Soccer Scholarship

Tess Phelps will start her career at Lewis & Clark Community College and then transfer to Florissant Valley Community College to become a Sonogram technologist.

Caitlin McLaughlin recently started a new job at Express Scripts in Earth City

Kayla Wray has transferred to MacMurray College in Jacksonville, IL to pursue a career in Nursing.

ADDRESS CHANGES:**Caitlin McLaughlin**

1120 Taylor

Godfrey, IL 62035

618-466-3215

Lauren McLaughlin

MSC #819 Lauren McLaughlin

1 College Hill

Canton, MO 63435

Sara Keene has moved to Oklahoma. Is currently working at Arby's and planning on returning to school for Physical Therapy

**Her new address is:
4803 Trade Wind Drive
Oologah, OK 74053
918-553-1192**

Mary Calendar
**University Nursing Home
1095 University Drive
Edwardsville, IL 62025**

Kayla Wray
**MacMurray College
Box 4922
447 E. College Avenue
Jacksonville, IL 62650**

THANK YOU'S

I recently came back to Alton and had the opportunity to attend worship at ESPC. What a wonderful experience. I was warmly welcomed by old friends and I left with a feeling of love and happiness. Thanks for all of the hugs and warm greetings. May that same spirit of friendship and love help the church start down a path of renewal and growth. God Bless all of you! *Greg Lister*

A Special Thanks to all who provided Special Music for ESPC during the summer

*Chance, Zada & Breanne Shewmake
Pam & Michael Stolze, Cheryl Trusty, Debbie Wallace, Brendan Lersch, Bob Watkins, Elinor Blacklock, Jean Bryant, Marjorie Beane and Rayford Raby*
God Bless You All!

"THE FIVE LOAVES AND TWO FISH"

A while back we had a few events at ESPC. The first one that I would like to address is our annual spaghetti supper. Once again the impossible was done. With a dwindling congregation and GOD's blessing, we did it again and not only did it, but maybe had our greatest amount served to date. As in so many of our events we get help from all directions; family members, friends (GOD's

BLESSINGS). THANKS to the COOKS that make the sauce that keeps the people coming back for more. THANKS to the WORKERS that now work both shifts to make sure that all goes smoothly. THANKS to those that set up and cleaned up. A SPECIAL THANKS to the youth that come out for this event, whose help insures that we are able to continue to man the event and keep them going. Last, but certainly not least, THANKS to THOSE that purchased tickets and came to the event, for without them there would truly be NO EVENT.

The second event that I wish to address is the Bucket Brigade. In May we had the annual Bucket Brigade, in which we once again participated. I believe that this may be the 25th year that ESPC has been a part of Pride's Bucket Brigade event. That in itself is pretty awesome and through the years we've had many of the ESPC member take part in it. As I said regarding the spaghetti supper, we are getting smaller and that holds true for our painting force as well. There were seven of us this year, but we still managed to make one lady in Wood River very happy and very proud of her home. It had sat scraped and unpainted for a year. It was supposed to have been painted last year, but no one ever showed up to do the job and nobody is quite sure what happened. However, that doesn't matter now, it's done and everybody is happy. Even though the house itself was not that big, it was a time consuming project. The lady had picked out the paint or should I say paints. She had four different colors that she wanted used on it. The house is BEIGE, the shutters and foundation are BLACK, the window trim is CREAM and the front door is RED and it looks GREAT. I would like to THANK the following people for their help in making this possible. They are as follows: Rev. Janet

Riley, Jean Bryant, Kathy Steinmann, Jane Hellrung, Steve Springgate and Lyndal Colburn. Oh, by the way, Jean said don't get too close to the Rev. when she's got a paint brush in her hand. I'm not sure why, you'd have to ask Jean.

I also wanted to make mention of a couple other events that took place at ESPC. They were Bingo Night and Trivia Night. These events were not heavily attended, but they were GREAT fun for those that did attend. I hope that they continue and that more people will participate in them. Again, Great Fun and Fellowship was had by all. I would like to Thank Jean Bryant, Mary Cordes and Dan Jarman for engineering these events. P.S. I've said it before and I will keep saying it, as long as it is TRUE. We are small and we have our differences, but when push comes to shove we PULL TOGETHER for the betterment of ESPC. DON'T under estimate US! Thus my title "THE FIVE LOAVES AND TWO FISH". I'm Still Proud to be ESPC

Thanks, Y'all **John Kennedy**

Thank you so much for the flowers and many kindnesses you gave to us and mom. She loved her church family and the many visits from deacons/members. She was so diligent with her cards and visits to others and we know how much she appreciated those same cards and visits.

With gratitude, The Jean Freer Family.

A Special thanks to **Judy and Lyndal Colburn** for hosting the CE Committee "family gathering" You missed a good time enjoyed only by a few. We enjoyed the fellowship, wonderful food and a few enjoyed swimming in the pool.

OUR SYMPATHY

To the family and friends of
Audra "Jean" Freer
She was a long-time member of ESPC.
She died Monday, August 15, 2011 at
Alton Memorial Hospital

To the family and friends of
Sonia Hetge
She died August 17, 2011

To the family of **Michael Bailey**
He died at Anderson Hospital August 24, 2011
Son of Dale Bailey.

To the Family of **Mary Saville**
Jeff Saville's grandmother.

BIRTHDAYS

September

- 4.....Al Wallace
- 10.....Mark Stone
- 11.....Tyler Trusty
- 21.....Dean Stiegemeier
- 27.....John Kennedy

October

- 3.....Jeremy Shewmake
Aaron Gunning
- 4.....Charles Tague
- 6.....Jenny Wyatt
- 7.....Sue Stone
- 9.....Jeff Auston
- 10.....Sarah Lichtsinn
Michael Stolze
- 11.....Lynne Phelps
- 24.....Carole Springgate
- 27.....Mike Paddock
- 29.....Mark Darr
Jeannette Greene

November

- 3.....Amanda Phelps
- 5.....Brent Phelps
- 6.....Greg Lister
- 7.....Esther Bott
- 11.....Norma Waggoner
- 12.....Debbie Wallace
- 23.....Virginia Thatcher
Shaun Wallace
- 26.....Nancy Bailey
- 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

CRISIS FOOD CENTER REPORT

ESPC sent over 277 items, school supplies and \$50.00 to the Crisis Food Center since reported in our last newsletter. They continue seeing new faces every day and have not had to turn anyone away. This year is the first full year of their "Back To School From The Inside Out". Along with a 5-day supply box of nutritionally balanced food, our clients with school aged children received a packet including new socks and underwear, a toothbrush and toothpaste, and a washcloth and soap. So every child will feel good about their first day at school. www.gooddearch.com is bringing in the pennies.

DEACONS REPORT

The Deacons are asking you to continue using your green Deacon Fund envelopes as well as the Love Fund envelopes (found in with your pledge envelopes) as often as you can. There are more people than ever asking for help with electric and water bills. **And don't forget they are still collecting empty ink-jet cartridges with printer heads,**

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The "Youth Summer Educational Enrichment Program" was successful and a grant of \$1000.00 from Presbytery helped make this outreach possible. A Coffee Hour on June 26, 2011 honored the high school and college graduates. They were Elisa Wallace, Tess Phelps, Caitlin and Lauren McLaughlin. Rev. Riley would like to meet all ESPC members, the committee will plan something informal one evening and one Saturday morning and invite the church members to attend one of the gatherings. The committee is planning to give a certificate of appreciation to Carole Springgate from Church World Service for her many years of planning the Blanket Sunday Collection Campaign. School supplies were collected for the Crisis Food Center. Their next meeting will be September 19, 2011.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The committee has contacted people to provide Special Music for the summer months, planned

for the special days during the summer and the Blessing of the Backpacks on August 14, 2011. Choir practice will begin again on Thursday, September 1, 2011. The committee is presently working with Salem Presbyterian Church planning the Outdoor Worship service on September 11, 2011 at Salem. The committee will meet again September 15, 2011 to plan for the fall and Advent Season. A Christmas Eve service is being planned with all Alton area Presbyterian Churches taking part to be held at 12th Street Presbyterian Church.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

VBS held at the Nature Institute was a success. Average attendance was 60. 110 pairs of shoes were collected for the water project and 314 canned goods were collected for the CFC. A "Family Gathering" was held at Lyndal & Judy Colburn's. A CE survey was sent out to all members with little response (not too late to turn them in). They will be reviewed at the next meeting of the C. E. committee

SESSION INFORMATION

The Session has met several times since the last Elm Leaf. The Session approved the following:

1. The minutes of all meetings and reports.
2. The resignation of Dan Jarman from Session.
3. The baptism of Jackson Ryan Saville.
4. Collect shoes for the Shoeman Water Project.
5. Mary Cordes as Elder commissioner to Presbytery August 27 alternate Marj Bryant.
6. August 14, 2011 as date for a Special Congregational meeting.
7. The nominating committees' recommendation of Tom Wyatt to replace Dan Jarman.
8. A Christian Education survey to be sent to all members. Also a "Family Gathering" to be held at Lyndal Colburn's House on Saturday, August 13, 2011 from 5:00-8:00 pm.

Jacky Proctor of the Committee on Ministry our liaison with Presbytery attended the Session on July 26, 2011 and explained her job. Two Congregational meetings were held one to excuse Mike and Elizabeth Brey from the Nominating Committee and replace them with Becky Saville and Jenny Wyatt and the second to approve Tom Wyatt as Elder replacing Dan Jarman.

Some of us have not as of yet paid our per capita.
Per capita this year is \$27.01 per member
Please pay as soon as possible.

UPCOMING EVENTS.

The Area Presbyterian Churches' Mission Project is *Shoes Into Water -turning used and new shoes into Clean Drinking Water.* We will be collecting shoes until Sunday October 2. **It's simple:** clean out your closet of any kind of shoes (no holes), tie or rubber band them together, drop them into a collection bin. There is a collection bin in the basement of the church and one in the C. E. Building **Shoeman Water projects will:** Pick up the shoes from drop-off location, give them second life, selling to exporters for resale, use the money to purchase well drilling rigs, water filtration systems, and their supplies to bring clean, fresh water to those in need. Call the church office if you have any questions.

A new Bible Study started on Wednesday, August 24, 2011 at ESPC at 6:30 pm. With Rev. David Crowley, pastor at First Presbyterian Church as the leader. Title:" Learning the Language of Faith, Biblical Themes in the Reformed Faith". It is open to all.

We will be worshipping at Salem Presbyterian Church on Sunday September 11, 2011. Worship time is 10:30 am and it will be an Outdoor service. A potluck will immediately follow worship. The church and basement are handicap accessible. There are sign-up sheets on the table in the rear of the sanctuary for carpooling and potluck dishes. Salem will furnish drinks, bread and the paper products. Meat dishes will be needed.

ESPC Choir practice starts Thursday, September 1, 2011 Salem has been invited to join us for a joint choir practice on Thursday, September 1 and Thursday, September 8, 2011. It will last about 30 minutes starting at 7:00 pm to prepare for the Worship Service at Salem on Sunday, September 11, 2011.

Another Hurricane Katrina Work Trip is being planned for **October 15 – October 22** The group will stay at the Olive Tree Volunteer Village located neat New Orleans. If interested call Sheila Wilkie (372- 8895) or Kay Gunning (372-4133). They will meet at College Avenue Presbyterian Church at 7:30 pm on September 13, 2011 to finalize the number going. See the flyer or ask Marj for more info.

Over 55 Ministry is open to all area churches and ages, if you haven't been on one of their outings you don't know what you are missing. Make you reservation by sending you check to College Avenue Presbyterian Church PO Box 1081, Alton, IL 62002 or seeing Marj Bryant **Saturday, September 17, 2011** A guided tour of the Fox Theatre. Explore the backstage dressing rooms, step onto the stage. A featured organist will show us the grandeur and versatility of the mighty Wurlitzer organs. Leave CAPC at 9:30 am return about 2:00 pm. Cost including lunch is \$45.00. You can choose two of the following, soup, salad, half sandwich. Choices are: Soups - Tomato bisque, Mediterranean lentil or Sweet Potato bisque, Salads – Caesar, Key West (grapefruit, avocado and cashews, poppy seed dressing) or The Fox (dried cranberries, walnuts, bleu cheese vinaigrette) Half sandwiches – Chicken salad, Turkey wrap, Classic club. The dessert and drink are included. Choice of dessert – Brownie, Cookie or White chocolate mousse.

Friday, October 21, 2011 Coffee Concert at Powell Hall. Program consists of pieces by Rachmaninoff and Elgar as well as Chopin's Piano Concerto No.1 played by talented, young pianist Olga Kern. Lunch will be at the Bella Milano in Edwardsville. Cost is \$55.00 all inclusive. Depart from CAPC at 8:45 am **November 16, 2011** Veteran's Day Salute by the Clarion Brass at the Sheldon.

Godfrey 1st United Methodist Church is having its Annual Golf Scramble September 17, 2011. If interested see the information on the bulletin board in the CE Building.

Well Spring Resources is having a Trivia Night September 30, 2011 at the Alton Knights of Columbus. See the bulletin board.

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The Visiting Nurses Association TIP will be opening their office in the C.E. Building on September 1, 2011. They will soon be offering Flu Shots

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SAVE THIS DATE:

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2011

Mildred Maguire's family is planning a party for her 90th Birthday

It will be in the afternoon in the C. E. Building's Fellowship Hall More information later.

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College Avenue Presbyterian Church
"Gold Party – 175th Anniversary Fundraiser"
 Wouldn't be fun to attend a fundraiser where you receive cash instead of spend it? Friends of CAPC are invited to attend this event which is being held to support our 175th anniversary celebration. Bring any gold or silver items you might want to sell. A representative of a gold buying company will be present to weigh and analyze your items and pay you in cash. You will receive and keep your cash. The benefits to the church are the bonuses paid for hosting the party. If 20 people sell, the bonus is \$200.00, 30 people sell, bonus is \$300.00. In addition the church will receive 10% of the total amount sold. The company buys gold in the form of 10K up through 24K, platinum and sterling silver. It can be jewelry in good or bad condition, broken, tangled or tarnished. Gold mixed with other metals and silver plated articles are not accepted. Gold is selling at premium prices in the current market. The event will be held on Saturday, September 17, 2011 from 12 noon until 4:00 pm in the fellowship room downstairs. Light refreshments will be served and you may come and go between these times as your schedule permits. If you can't be present, ask a friend to bring your items for you in a sack with your name on it and they can return the proceeds to you. Call June Weinrich at 466-4966 with any questions.

KIDS IN CHURCH

3 year-old Reese: 'Our Father, Who does art in heaven, Harold is His Name. Amen'

A Little boy was overheard praying: 'Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it. I'm having a real good time like I am.'

A father was at the beach with his children, when the four year old son ran up to him, grabbed his hand, and lead him to the shore where a seagull lay dead in the sand. 'Daddy, what happened to him?' the son asked. 'He died and went to Heaven,' the Dad replied. The boy thought a moment and then said, 'Did God throw him back down?'

BULLETIN BLOOPERS

Join us for a special program next Sunday:
 "Angus Dei" performed by the choir.
 This should have read Agnus Dei, word "angus" makes the program Holy Cow!

Don't forget the election for Dead Deacon will be held at next month's business meeting.
 It should have read Head Deacon.

The Building & Grounds committee reported the lovers in the kitchen exhaust fan are not working properly.

Elm Leaf Prayer Concerns - Autumn - 2011

Members

Esther & Bill Bott
Nellie Smithee
Lois Mitchell
Brent Phelps
Elizabeth Brey

"In The Nursing Home"

Pat Gross.....Willow Rose
Clarabel Park.....Royal Oak Care Ctr.
Willanette Ball.....Eunice Smith Nsg. Home
Dan Earnhardt... ..Rehab Center of Alton

Relatives and Friends of ESPC

Carol Jo & Don Domescik.....Carole Springgate
The Reynolds family.....Cherilyn Trusty's Family
Kathy Shewmake.....Zada and Chance's daughter
Kim Stibel.....daughter-in-law of Joyce Schrupf Goethe
Winifred Orris
Mary Calendar, Megan Vatole, Heather and expected baby.....Jarman's
Tim Murphy.....friend of John Kennedy
Grady Watkins Dean Williamson Mary Brown Barbara Wedding
Andy Torrez Bill Oertle Bill and Amy Ball
John Slusser.....friend of Erin Oxford
Jeff SlifkaAudrey Stewart
Pricilla "Perky" Christman
Gary Neese.....Mike Paddock
Becky and Emma Swarsky (31/2).....Jane Hellrung's niece & daughter
Dixie Darr
Lynna Humbert & Shanna Schulz.....Rev. George Humbert
Terry Trusty's Aunt Margie
Shirley Laubscher
The Schmitt Family (injured in a fire).....co-worker of Bobbi Wray
Pam Healy.....Pam Stolze
Janet Bland.....Jane Hellrung's sister
William Weed
Charles (Chuck Keene).....Sara Keene's father
The Families of Jean Freer, Sonia Hetge, Mike Bailey, Marcella Eggeman, Jim Miller, John Hayes,
the Burch family and Mary Saville

Healing of ESPC

Courage to move forward, Strength, to do so and Wisdom to know how

In Service: -Brandon Medlock

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