

Elohim Great Banquet Community

PO Box 327

Marshall, IL 62441

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Return Service Requested

Come and Join Us at the June Gathering

Great Food, Great Friends, Awesome Worship, Fellowship, Music & Communion

Potluck Dinner 5:00 P.M. Gathering 6:00 P.M.

All Elohim Great Banquet events are held on "Illinois" time.

Child Care Will Be Provided

**June 18th Gathering
New Providence
Presbyterian
Church
1751 N 2250 Street
Paris, IL 61944**



Elohim Great Banquet Community

June / July 2011



Community Lay Director:

Jessica Bush
(219) 983-2281

Board Members:

Dan Bircher
(217) 345-7454

Harry Clayton
(217) 465-4241

Eric Coon
(217) 276-5629

Lisa Gard
(217) 889-2570

Debra Korte
(618) 645-2280

Donna McAdam
(812) 240-2179

Donnie Rowe
(217) 254-4655

Tom Skinner*
(217)345-5151

Tom Stelle*
(217) 259-4382

Becky Williams
(217) 932-5948

Kevin Williams
(217) 822-2710

*denotes clergy

Fall Weekends at Camp Illiana

Men's Great Banquet #25 Sept 8-11, 2011
Lay Director - Eric McAdam

Women's Great Banquet #26 Sept 15-18, 2011
Lay Director - Paula Sprigg

Sponsorship: Remember your weekend? Someone prayed for you and sponsored you. Now is your chance to do the same for someone else.

Who would you like to bless with the same love that you received on your weekend. Prayerfully consider someone to sponsor and send their application, by mail or hand deliver to:
Paula and David Sprigg at 20519 North Lake Drive, Marshall, IL 62441
Questions? Email: Elohimregistrar@gmail.com

Fall Team Volunteers: Team Selection has already begun, the calls are going out. If you would like to help, we need your volunteer form filled out ASAP and returned to Eric Coon at: 27030 E County Rd 1040 N Ashmore, IL 61912
Phone (217)276-5629 or email it to: Elohimgreatbanquet@yahoo.com

Attention: Great Banquet Newsletter To Be Sent via Email

We need your current email!!! We are growing as a community and would like to email the Newsletter and other information, specific to Elohim Great Banquet Community business, in order keep you updated on current Community events and to cut back on printing and mailing costs. We have sent out emails to everyone in the community that we have email addresses for. If you did not receive an email from Elohim Great Banquet then we do not have your current email. If you did receive one please reply so we know that we have a currently used email.

Please email us at: elohimgreatbanquet@yahoo.com or you can go to the website www.elohimgreatbanquet.org and click on the email button. If you do not have email or cannot receive your newsletter by email you will still receive your Newsletter by regular mail.

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these." Mark 12:30,31 NIV

From the Community Spiritual Director

Greetings in the Name of our Lord!

On April 30, 2011 Juli and I attended our daughter Elizabeth's graduation held at St. John's Hospital in Springfield, Il. Although a student at Eastern Illinois University, she had to do clinical studies her last year at St. John's. She is now a Medical Laboratory Scientist. There were only six students and the ceremony was very nice.

St. John's Hospital is disciplined after the Order of the Franciscans founded by St. Francis of Assisi back in the thirteenth century. One of the speakers at the graduation made reference to the Prayer of St. Francis and placed a strong emphasis on "the need to serve, rather than be served". I was reminded of the times we at Elohim Team Formation Orientation prayed this prayer together.

The heart of the Elohim Great Banquet Community beats with our service to Christ: we serve our guests, we serve one another, and...we serve our Lord. As a result, He shows up, and we are every one blessed.

One of the first indicators of our willingness to serve on a Great Banquet weekend is the filling out of a Volunteer Form. This gives the Team Selection Committee (a group of eight) their first idea of who wants to do what. In the past we've never had enough of these forms returned and the Committee has had to resort to "drafting". (I speak by experience: the clergy run particularly short.)

There are those in the Community who have served many times, and they hesitate to volunteer. They are willing to serve, but they desire to give the newer members of the Community opportunity. And, when the Volunteer Forms run short, these servants are ready to step up to the task. Please keep the Team Formation Committee in your prayers: it can be an arduous task.

Having said the above, I would now like to say the following. Serving on a Great Banquet Team generally follows a process. We have a 50/50 Rule that we try to observe. This means we want half the team to be experienced and half to be new, moving the experienced people along in the process and introducing the new to the same. Those new to the Community generally start in the non-Conference Room parts (Kitchen, Agape, Prayer Chapel). After two or three weekends here, they become an Assistant Table Leader, followed by Table Leader, then Assistant Lay Director...spending two or three weekends in each position. By this time the "new" person knows the workings of the Conference Room well enough to be Lay Director.

It must also be pointed out that "new" means "new to the position". Someone who has served in the Kitchen seven weekends, for example, and decides he or she would like to be an Assistant Table Leader...this person would be considered "new" under the 50/50 Rule. If he or she has never served in a particular position, he or she is considered "new" the first time to that position.

The Volunteer Forms greatly aid The Team Selection Committee in building a great team for the upcoming weekends and for more weekends in the future. They express your interest and help the Elohim Great Banquet Community to grow in both excellence and quality. It's about building the Kingdom of God.

II Tim. 2:15 says "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth."

DE COLORES!

Tom Stelle, Acting CSD

EGB Board News

Pastor Phil Tribby needed to step down as Community Spiritual Director and Tom Stelle has agreed to temporarily serve as our Acting CSD and Pastor Amos Foreman has accepted a call to an out of state church. We would like to thank these men for the spiritual direction they have provided and still provide to the Elohim Great Banquet Community. Perry Baird, who has served this community since its earliest days in ways too numerous to mention here is also stepping down at this time to start a new venture. George Furnish is also stepping down at this time. Our thanks and prayers go out to you all. DeColores

Greetings from the Community Lay Director

One of my favorite things to do in the summer is to sit outside on my front porch. I live in a historic neighborhood and most of the houses have huge front porches. I often like to sit out there after work and study my Bible or if I am ambitious enough to do it in the morning. Often my neighborhood kids will stop by and chat because they like my swing, but maybe it is because I usually have some homemade baked goods for them to try. I am trying to make it a point to get to know my neighbors better. I will have lived in my house two years this June which is hard to believe and there are neighbors I have not even met yet. How often do we go through life and perhaps see the same people frequently but don't even really know them or take the chance to get to know them? I just met one of my neighbors a couple of weeks ago for the first time because I made it a point to go talk with him when he was out doing yard work. We are called to love our neighbors as ourselves. I want to encourage you as the weather is getting nicer to take the time to get to know your neighbors. Invite them over to sit on your front porch. Have a glass of ice tea with them and build a relationship or even strengthen an already existing one. As Christians we are in the business of building relationships. Relationships to help strengthen and advance the kingdom.

We are coming up very quickly on the fall weekends. I know some of you are thinking summer is just starting, but the weekends will be here in a blink of an eye. The LDs are making calls to team members and in God's timing the teams will be coming together. If you do not receive a call to work, ask yourself, "Did the team selection know I wanted to work?" We are growing as a community and we would like everyone who wants to work to fill out an application even if you have never filled one out before. We are striving as a board to bring continuity to the selection process. If you have never worked before, pray about it. Think about when you went on your weekend and what a blessing you received. You could be part of a blessing to a guest.

Please be in prayerful minds for the upcoming teams and the sets of weekends for the Fall. Be in prayerful mind to sponsor. Ask God to put on your heart if you are supposed to sponsor a guest. If you have never sponsored a guest before, but need some help, ask someone who has or ask a board member. We can help. It truly is an honor and blessing to sponsor. I hope to see everyone at the upcoming gatherings.

DeColores,

Jessica Bush

Newsletter Information

If you would like to submit a newsletter article for the Great Banquet Newsletter all items must be specific to the community itself and not a person or private entity. Any item that we are unsure of will need board approval. All items need to be to us by the 20th of the month prior to publication (i.e. July 20th for August Newsletter).

Visit Our Community Website - www.ElohimGreatBanquet.org

Update your contact information, find out about The Weekends, Gatherings, Guest lists, Downloadable Sponsor and Volunteer forms, The Newsletter, Sponsorship information and responsibilities, Maps and Driving directions, and other items.

Contact us at the community email Elohimgreatbanquet@yahoo.com

Stay Connected: Join or start a Reunion Group & Come to the Monthly Gatherings

**Gathering
Saturday, July 16th
Patton UMC
N2480 St / Clark Road
Patton, IL**

