

THE MESSENGER

Published by the First Baptist Church of Altamont, Illinois



Summer Issue 2010

<June, July, August>



Our Mission:

“The First Baptist Church of Altamont seeks to glorify God by worshiping together, enjoying the fellowship of one another, providing opportunities for people to grow in Christ, ministering to the needs of all, and reaching people for Christ.”

Pastor’s Paragraphs

“Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.” 1 Corinthians 4:2 (NKJV)

When you invite special guests to your home, do you warm up the leftovers in the refrigerator and serve them on paper plates in front of the television? Of course not. Most of us prepare a special meal, use our best dishes and arrange our schedules so that we can spend quality time with our guests. In other words, we offer them our very best.

How many of us invite the Lord Jesus into our life and then serve Him “leftovers”? We give Him time “leftover” from our work, our families or our recreation. We give Him talents “leftover” from our social organizations, our sports activities or our hobbies. We give Him money “leftover” after we pay our bills and our taxes and put some money aside for our vacation. Have you given to the Lord who died for you the choicest, or have you given Him “leftovers”?

It is my hope that you will be faithful with your attendance, service, and giving during the summer months. Our Lord deserves your very best—*all year long!*

In His Service,

Pastor Lowell



Summer Sermon Series

During the month of June, Pastor Lowell will continue the **“Confronting Casual Christianity”** series. Then in July through early September, Pastor Lowell will teach a series entitled, **“Answers to Life’s Difficult Questions.”**

J	6	Resistance to Commitment
U	13	Commitment on Trial
N	20	Commitment: The Rewards of Obedience
E	27	Is Jesus Christ Your Lord?

May PM Bible Study Series

In the June Church Ministry Leadership Team (CMLT) meeting, we will discuss various options for the Sunday evening adult Bible study. The CMLT will then make a recommendation during the June Business Meeting.

First Baptist Church of Altamont Service Teams

Our teams are led by the following dedicated individuals:

Fellowship	Ministry	Evangelism & Missions	Worship & Music	Discipleship
Janet Hunsaker	Pastor Lowell Donnelley	Linda Riley	Dr. Mirta Donnelley	Paula Putnam
Ethelyn Williams		Larry Riley		

Evangelism & Missions Mentions

World Changers

The purpose of World Changers is for teenagers and adults to share God's love by providing free labor to communities in need. Projects provide a venue for participants to live out their faith. World Changers is a ministry of the North American Mission Board and is affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention. World Changers seeks to change the world of a resident by demonstrating a very practical kind of care and concern. We do not want to be nameless and faceless workers who do a job, but new friends who have come to help.

Eugene Dye, Megan & Lucas Donnelley will be serving in World Changers this summer. Please hold their service experience up in your prayers....



Campers on Mission



Campers on Mission is a free national fellowship of Christian campers who share their faith and serve in various ways while they camp. Sponsored by the North American Mission Board (NAMB), membership is open to Christian campers of all denominations. Campers on Mission accept short-term volunteer assignments across the United States and Canada. From state fairs and motor speedways to rural campgrounds, they combine a love of the outdoors with ministry across North America.

Discipleship Team Doings

May Discipleship Training

Beginning on Wednesday, June 16th at 6:30 pm, we will begin a study based on the movie "Fireproof." Included will be clips from the movie, Bible study, and fellowship.



Summer Sunday School

We invite you to attend Bible study Sundays from 9:00 to 10:00 am.

Classes are available for all ages!

Women's Bible Study

This ladies group meets every Tuesday at 1:30 pm at the Nancy Powell residence. It's a great opportunity to grow in the knowledge of God's Word.



Fellowship Findings

Ethelyn and I would like to thank all the fellowship team for their support throughout this past year. Also thanks to those who just pitched in to help.

Being a member of this team is not for the faint-hearted. We arrive early, work hard, and stay late but love every minute of it. Not only do we work together, we share together, laugh together, cry, together, and become closer. If anyone would like to come onboard the Fellowship Train, we would love to have you!

We just enjoyed watching the movie, **Fireproof**, as we munched popcorn and ate hot dogs. On Monday, June 21st we will travel to Rehoboth Camp to serve lunch and dinner to about a hundred hungry children and adults.

The fellowship will meet soon to plan fun activities for this summer and fall.

.....Janet and Ethelyn

Worship & Music Team Wonderings

Music Notes

I would like to thank everyone who helped with the worship ministry of our church during this past school year. Thank you praise band for your weekly dedication; Thank you drama team for the great messages; Thank you choir for coming to practice faithfully; and we could not have a "smooth" service without our accompanists and music leaders. I am looking forward to working with all of you again in the fall. In the mean time, we are always in need of special music during the summer, so please let me know if you have something prepared.

In Christ,

Mirta



Drama Delights

Of all the hats I wear at church, serving on the Drama Team is my favorite. Whenever I first read a drama, I can just picture the individuals who would be wonderful to play each character. I'm happy to say, when I ask each person, I'm not often turned down. Working on the props and sets is fun for me, not so much for Lowell, as he must do the grunt work. He often reminds me of the time I asked him to wear that short skirt and fancy hat....

I just can't decide which drama to do for June, so I'll wait to see what sermons Pastor has in mind for that month.

Thank you to everyone who participates in these dramas and thank you for all the positive feedback and encouragement we receive!

.Janet and Lowell



Ministry Team Ministrations

Summer Youth & Music Ministry Intern

Lucas Donnelley will begin working with our children and youth programs in June. He will teach guitar lessons for our children, lead a Bible study for our new "Journey" youth ministry, and assist with monthly youth events. Watch the bulletin for more details.



Please join us at the church this summer at the church on Sundays for fun evenings of singing, games, storing God's word in our hearts, and so much more!

5:30 – 7:00 pm

Open to age 3 through grade 6.

Come and check us out!

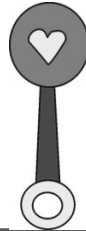
< Summer Youth Events >

June ~ Camping & Water Park

July ~ Holiday World

August ~ Boating & Swimming

Nursery



If you have a heart for working with the youngest in our church family, please let the office know! We need a Nursery Coordinator, additional workers & youth helpers.

SHUT-IN MINISTRY

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| May 31 | Memorial Day |
| June 6 | <D> Day |
| June 14 | Flag Day |
| July 4 | Independence Day |
| July 27 | National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day |



Honor Veterans, Fly the Flag!

This summer we honor those veterans who have served to protect our freedoms in a nation God has given us. Let's seriously consider those freedoms and responsibilities that are part of being citizens of our great country, the United States of America. We have an obligation to be involved, to be informed, and to make our country the best it can be.

Through our **Shut In Ministry** team contacts, we are blessed and reminded of the many freedoms we have in our country and especially our freedom in Christ - one of which is to lift up those who can't be with us to worship and fellowship each week. Please join us to request our Heavenly Father to minister to them in a special way.

If you have an interest to serve in the **Shut-In Ministry** or if you know someone in our body in need of encouragement, please contact **Alice Potts (618.483.3126)** or **Nancy Byars (618.483.9826)**.

Kid's Cove Corner



"Be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead!"
- 1 Peter 1:6

Fun Summer Activities

- Riding bikes
- Hopscotch & chalk fun
- Water games galore
- *Hose Head
- Jumping rope
- Frisbee fun
- Bouncing ball tourneys
- Playing catch
- Hide 'n Go Seek
- Neighborhood tag
- Fishing with family
- Swimming with friends
- Exploring the beauty of God's nature

*Hose Head Rules

- Create a hose hat for each player by cutting off the hose at the thigh and putting a wadded sock in the toe of each.
- Players put on their hose hats, cuffing the hose as needed to fit securely. The sock ball should hang to the shoulders.
- On the count of three, players try to grab the sock ball -- and the hose along with it -- off the heads of opposing players without losing their own. This leads to much wild swinging of heads (which is why a sock works best) and MUCH laughter. No holding the hose on your head!
- The last player with a hose hat on his head wins!!!



Church Administration

Church Ministry Leadership Team (CMLT)

All church leaders are invited and encouraged to attend our CMLT meetings scheduled for 6 pm on the first Tuesday of every month.

Tuesday ~ June 1st @ 6:00 pm

Tuesday ~ July 6th @ 6:00 pm

Tuesday ~ Aug 3rd @ 6:00 pm

Adult Midweek Programs

We invite you to attend Midweek Programs each Wednesday at 6:30 pm. The first week of each month we have a **Missions Night program**, and the third week we have our monthly **Business Meeting**. The remaining weeks we have **Prayer & Discipleship Training**, so please join us here on Wednesday nights!

Please call....

If you or someone you know is ill, injured, admitted to the hospital, and/or needs pastoral ministry, please call the Pastor, your deacon or any of the other deacons.

Pastor Lowell

483-3250 church
483-5264 home
618/553-5560 cell phone



Kieffer Milam	618/483-6374
Larry Riley	217/868-5751
Art Davidson	618/483-6577
Jim Pritchard	618/483-6810
Ron Hite	618/483-5058
Randy McElroy	618/245-9155
Duane Guffey	217/536-5727

Deacons meet the 2nd Thursday each month at 6:30pm.

Your Church Library

Come On In! *Please stop in before morning worship each Sunday to browse, then select an item to enrich your life!*

Self-Service Circulation If you see something interesting simply sign it out on the library check out sheet you'll find on the library table. When you return your item, mark it as returned on the same sheet, then place it back on the shelf in numeric order.

Open House Watch the bulletin for the upcoming summer date of our church library open house.



Member Minutes

Joining the Church

You may become a member of our church by:

1. **Profession of Faith & Baptism**—If you receive Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior and follow Him in baptism by immersion.
2. **Promise of Church Letter**—You can transfer your membership from another Southern Baptist Church or a church of like faith and order.
3. **Statement of Faith**—If you have already accepted Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Savior and have been baptized by immersion as a believer in a church of like faith and order.
4. **Baptism**—If you are a Christian but have never been baptized by immersion.

Summer Birthdays!

- JUNE**
- 3 -- Samantha Jennings
 - 5 -- Lowell Donnelley
 - 6 -- Larry Molt
 - 7 -- Deb Webster
 - 9 -- Bud Himes
 - 23 -- Sharon Higgs
 - 25 -- Letty Cameron
 - 26 -- Makara Hunsaker

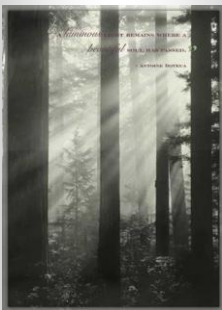
- ~~~~~
- JULY**
- 3 -- Pauline Ramsey
 - 4 -- Teresa Cannon
 - 5 -- Bianca Followell
 - 8 -- Kristine Kline
Joesie Hames
 - 14 -- Doc Tish
 - 17 -- Richard Cannon
 - 19 -- Zoey Slingerland
 - 21 -- Ron Hite
 - 22 -- Gene Robertson
 - 23 -- Roger Bowman
Ray Casselman
 - 27 -- Nancy Byars

- ~~~~~
- AUGUST**
- 5 -- Bob Atchison
 - 8 -- Kody Hays
Adam Mathis
 - 13 -- Erica Bowman
 - 14 -- Bruce Tucker
 - 15 -- Angie McElroy
 - 19 -- Vickie Whitten
 - 22 -- Vivian Prater
 - 23 -- Breanna Junior
Keaton Parker
 - 25 -- Rose Williams
 - 26 -- Ethelyn Williams
 - 27 -- Marsha Pritchard

Christian Sympathies

Our church family extends heartfelt sympathy to:

Greg & Cynthia Sidwell and family in the loss of their baby, Olivia.



Summer Anniversaries!



[JUNE]

- 1 -- Ray & Sharon Casselman

[JULY]

- 4 -- Ron & Kim Hite
- 14 -- Robert & Danielle Hite
- 23 -- Larry & Pam Molt
- 25 -- Noel & Karen Hyde
- 31 -- Stan & Patricia Childress

[AUGUST]

- 1 -- Lowell & Janet Hunsaker
- 6 -- Charlie & Louella Goldsborough
- 20 -- Kieffer & Vicki Milam
- 21 -- Jim & Marsha Pritchard

Summer Hospital/Remembrance Flowers

If you have family hospitalizations or passings this summer, please contact one of the Deacon's wives for that month so we can remember those in our church family with beautiful flowers.

June

Angie McElroy 618/245-9155 hm
Linda Riley 217/868-5751 hm

July

Vicki Milam 618/483-6374
Marcia Guffey 217/536-5727 hm
217/342-3777 wk

August

Marsha Pritchard 618/483-6810 hm
217/246-6810 cell

Member of the Month



This month's Member of the Month is a person I admire greatly for her dedication and determination in furthering her education. Letty has been taking night college classes (and more recently-day classes on campus) for several years. But more about that later....

Loretta Marie (Letty) Harris was born June 25, 1950 at St Elmo. She tells me that at that time there was a small hospital in St. Elmo - I didn't know that! – and that over the years there have been two hospitals in St. Elmo. Her parents are Virgil and Goldie Harris and they lived in St. Elmo. Letty's Dad, Virgil, was an oil field worker but came down with cancer and passed away when Letty was only three years old. Letty says, "I don't know if I have actual memories of my Dad or just remember what I was told and the few pictures I saw. Everyone said he was a very sweet-spirited man and was very good to my Mom." Letty has three sisters. Her younger sister, Sandy, was only a month old at the time of her father's death. A sister Trudy was six at that time and a sister Sallie was four years old. Letty's mother, Goldie, stayed at home with the kids until they were in school. During this time she took in ironings and cleaned houses. Then she worked at a furniture store for a while and then went to work as a waitress – she worked at the Family Rest-Cue Restaurant in St. Elmo for several years and then at the Carriage Inn Restaurant in Altamont for many years. While Letty's father was ill, his younger brother, Todd, who was very close to Virgil, stayed with them and helped care for Letty's father. Goldie gave Virgil injections for pain and carried him when it was necessary to move him. His weight got down to sixty-eight pounds. Virgil had kept going to work until he was at the point where he would fall out of the truck when he got home at night. Todd Harris made the death-bed promise to his brother Virgil that he'd take care of his family. Todd didn't give his word lightly and sincerely meant that he'd care for Virgil's family. After Virgil's death, Todd and Goldie were eventually married (you just didn't live together without marriage). However, there was a world of difference in the personalities of the two brothers. Todd was very strict and stern and the girls grew up in a very tense household. They couldn't talk while at the table, had to turn the TV off when Todd went to bed and when they conversed, they talked in whispers most of the time. Goldie did her best to lighten their lives up with fun things when Todd was away from home. Letty says that it is interesting that all of the sisters married young and they all four married older men - perhaps seeking the mature personality they had missed by losing their father at young ages. However, all of the girls' marriages turned out to be successful ones. The sisters and their mother have remained very close over the years. "They are best friends that I can call on at any time and they'll be here." Letty says of her mother, "My mom is the strongest person I know. She has had so many obstacles in her life but never gives up. She will be eighty-five and still is "the life of the party." She is our "rock" and is always there for us."

I asked Letty if she remembered anything about her pre-school years and she said, "Not much. But I'm told that I was a real "Momma's Girl". I didn't want my mother out of my sight – I couldn't understand my father's death and his being gone and so I was afraid I'd lose Mom. Mom took in ironings and would set me on the end of the ironing board while she ironed and I'd know enough not to move. When Mom hung up clothes outside, I'd stand between her feet and hold on to her ankles. If Mom had to leave us with a baby sitter, I'd stand at the door and cry until she returned. Mom tells me I even sat on her lap when she went to the bathroom!! I grew up a very shy and insecure person."

Letty started first grade in St Elmo grade school – there was no kindergarten – and went all twelve years of school in St. Elmo. Letty says she always had to do her very best in her school work. She would study and study and felt sick if she got less than an A. She graduated eighth in her high school class but says it didn't come easily. Letty had worked at Family Rest-Cue Restaurant and Monarch Gas Company while in high school. Then in April before her graduation in June, Letty got a job at First National Bank in Altamont. She had done extra work to get extra credits in high school with the hope that she could graduate early. However, the school principal refused to let her graduate early. This was very disappointing to Letty because she had a special reason for wanting the early graduation. She'd been engaged since she was fifteen and was planning to get married upon graduation!! So Letty graduated in June of 1968 and was married on July 4, 1968 to Tracy "Short" Cameron. She chose July 4 because that gave her a long weekend –the only time she could get off from her new job at the bank.

Letty had known Tracy Cameron all of her life. Tracy was the youngest of eleven children and his family lived on the corner across the street from Letty's home. So Tracy was always a part of her life. One particular memory stands out in her mind. Letty was good friends with Tracy's father and visited with him often.

Tracy had joined the Navy at age 17 and came home on leave. Letty, a shy six year old, was creeping over to talk to Tracy's father and happened to run into Tracy coming across the yard. Now Tracy had a knife about a foot long in a sheath at his waist and when he saw Letty, the playful seventeen year old whipped his knife out of the sheath – it looked two feet long to Letty! – and snarled at her, "If you don't get home, I'm gonna cut your ears off." Letty fled home – completely petrified.

Goldie's father, Letty's Grandpa Sigle Force, lived next door to Letty's family. Grandpa's first wife (Goldie's mother) had died when Goldie was seven years old. Grandpa worked on the railroad and after his wife's death, several of the neighborhood women helped take care of his children. Tracy's mother was one of the women who helped out. Grandpa remarried after his six children were grown, but his second wife also died. He then married Tracy's mother after she was widowed. Tracy was in the Navy at the time. So this made a very confusing situation. Letty says this made Tracy Letty's step uncle –and after Tracy and Letty were married, Letty's Mom became her step sister-in-law and Grandpa became her step father-in-law. (Isn't there a song about being your own grandpa??!!) The two families were very close. They had family reunions together and the kids were in and out of the two homes constantly. When Tracy got out of the Navy, he was 21. Letty was ten and over at Grandpa's all the time. Tracy lived at Grandpa's and he would often let Letty help him wash his cars – he had two. Tracy would go fishing with Grandpa and Tracy's Mom and they would take Letty along fishing and on other trips with them. When she was twelve, Letty remembers telling her mother, "I'm going to marry Tracy some day." She was teased about having a crush on Tracy. But Letty became determined to show them it wasn't a crush. After he got home from the Navy, Tracy, like any young man would go out for the evening and quite often he'd stay out late – in Letty's eyes. She'd wait up at her window, watching to see when he came home, making sure that he was safe and home for the night. Tracy told his friends, "Letty is always around. I can't get rid of her so I had to marry her." Letty says they just grew together and when she was 15, they decided that they'd get married. "However," Tracy said, "You have to finish high school before we get married." Letty said this was her first big answer to prayer. "I'd seriously prayed that Short and I would be married." So they were married as quickly as they could after her graduation. Tracy was 29 and Letty was 18.

Letty's Mother had always taken Letty and her sisters to church at the First Baptist Church in St. Elmo. During a revival when Letty was seven years old – and the theme song for the revival was "Saved, Saved, Saved" –Letty turned her life over to Christ Jesus. Letty was mature for her age and that particular evening she felt such a strong urge to go forward. Letty says she felt such emotion that she thought she'd faint. Being so very shy, she was petrified to go forward but finally God gave her the courage to go up the aisle. She says it was the scariest thing she'd ever done. She was baptized shortly thereafter. The same preacher, Pastor Frank Clayborne, that baptized her, returned from another pastorate years later to perform Letty and Tracy's wedding ceremony at the same First Baptist Church. Letty said she was so afraid for sometime afterward that she'd "sin" after she became a Christian that she became paranoid – "afraid to make a statement like "It'll surely rain" because if it didn't rain I'd be wrong and have told a lie." Letty says that after she became an adult, she was in a class at church and the Pastor divided the group up to pray. Letty was unable to voice a prayer aloud. A few days later the pastor came to her home and asked her if she was sure she was a Christian. As a Christian, he thought she ought to be able to pray aloud and go out by two's for witnessing. When Letty tried to explain to him how uncomfortable she was – tongue-tied and feeling like she'd choke – he refused to be convinced that she really was a Christian.

Letty says this is one thing she especially appreciates about our Pastor Lowell. He doesn't insist that you walk the aisle and he understands if you can't pray aloud. Letty says she has comforted herself by remembering Matthew 6:6 which says, "But when you pray, go into your closet, close the door and pray to your Father.", the song that says "Let Others See Jesus in You" and the expression, "You may be the only Bible some people ever read". She is thankful that God knows her heart and hopes the way she lives her life is a good testimony for a Christian. Letty does admit to having a few phobias – she doesn't like to shake hands (But she does accept a hug!) She says she struggles with Obsessive Compulsive Disorder and is one who makes lists for everything, checks everything twice and counts everything over and over. (I assured her that isn't odd – she should know what some of the rest of us are like!) When she started taking a certain medication for a different condition, she found that it was quite effective on helping control the symptoms of OCD.

Letty said Tracy had become a Christian and jointed the St. Elmo Baptist Church as a boy but had gotten away from the church during his teen years. However, since Letty had said, "I'm not marrying anyone who won't go to church with me," Tracy had gone to church with her when they were first married. But because his job required him to work the swing shift and he often either worked or slept on Sunday, he got away from attending church again. It wasn't until their daughter, Alison, asked as a little girl, "Daddy, why don't you go to church with us?" that Tracy again became active in the church. Again the Lord answered Letty's prayer and Tracy turned back to the Lord all the way. Letty said it was almost too much of a good thing. Tracy was in church every time the doors were open, became a deacon and this dedication continued until Tracy's health became a problem and he was unable to attend. They continued attending at St Elmo until there were some problems in their church in 1993 and the Cameron family visited the First Baptist Church in Altamont. They joined our church soon afterward and became active here. Tracy served as Deacon and Letty served for many years as Sunday School Secretary.

A son Casey was born on June 1, 1975 to Letty and Tracy. Letty had worked at the Altamont First National Bank until Casey was born. She quit and stayed home with her son until he was about 18 months old. Sam Gnuse, bank president, asked her to come back at least temporarily while they were getting their new computerized system set up at the bank. Letty said it was very hard to leave young Casey but said it was probably best for him. She had previously turned down a job offer at Stella Doro Company. So Letty continued working at the bank off and on for the next ten years. Then on October 17, 1979, a daughter Alison was born and again Letty took a little while off work to stay with the children and then went back to work at the bank. She had a pretty good baby sitter and she continued working off and on at the bank until 1982.

At that time the Monarch Gas Company had decided to go to a computerized system and asked Letty to help them set up their system. Letty relates that it was interesting that the only job she'd applied for in her life was when she'd applied at the bank at the age of seventeen. All of the other positions she held, someone had come seeking her to do the job. Tracy had his first heart attack in 1988 while Letty was working at Monarch Gas Company. Because his company doctor would not let him go back to work because of the damage to his heart and it took two years for Tracy to start receiving disability, Letty took on some additional jobs to earn extra money. Besides doing the collecting and billing for Monarch Gas, she also became a meter reader and cleaned their office. Someone recommended Letty to the Exxon Oil bosses, so she went out and talked to them. In 1990 she started working in the office for Exxon and liked her job pretty well. However the Exxon Company sold out in 1992 and Letty stayed on with the new owners, but that did not turn out to be such a nice job. Letty stayed on until 1994. Then Bob Hoss, owner of the Robert Hoss Oil Company, called her and wanted to talk to her about coming to work for him. Letty became Bob Hoss' secretary and was the only one in the office most of the time because Bob was usually in Denver, CO and only came into the St. Elmo office once or twice a month. Of course, Letty would confer with him several times a day by phone. Letty said Bob Hoss had the reputation of being a rather contrary person to work for but Letty says he was very good to her. Letty put all of his office information onto a computer system. This was quite a task because his previous secretaries had done everything by hand and Letty had to go back in the years of records to computerize the information of what had been done to each oil well. This put all the information where it could be accessed instantly. Bob Hoss died of cancer in 1999 and his two daughters decided to sell the company. Benny Forbes, the foreman of the company, wanted to buy the company – but only if Letty would stay on as secretary. So Letty was there for 16 years. She said, "It was the best job and best boss I ever had!" However when Benny Forbes retired, he sold out to a small businessman who felt that he didn't need Letty. This happened in 2009 and was the last job Letty has had other than her tax work.

In 1998 Letty took the Federal Tax Accounting Course with Bob Sperry and finished it in December. Bob Sperry asked her when she had completed the class, "Will you come to work for H & R Block?" Letty said, "Oh, No, I can't talk to people!!" But Bob Sperry assured her that he'd seen enough of her work to be confident that she could do the job so Letty has been doing taxes every since - working nights and weekends. She says she's still not comfortable with the person to person tax preparation but would rather do the work when it is left for her to complete at her own pace. About three years ago she quit working for H & R Block and went to work for Stine Tax Services in St. Elmo and continues to work there as a seasonal tax preparer.

In 1970 Letty took her first night college class and over the years she has taken classes in accounting, management, office business and computers. Most of her classes were taken through Lakeland College. However she did take two or three through Kaskaskia College. When she finished her job with Forbes, she was able to go on campus and take some daytime classes. She says she got a little more serious about her college work. Taking the on-campus classes has let her pick up some of the classes she needed. She had received some certificates but has not been able to complete the degrees she would like. So this is a goal she has set for herself. It gives her a lot of satisfaction to complete the classes. At the present she just finished two classes and plans to take one class this summer and two classes this fall.

Tracy passed away in 2006 but one of the joys of Letty and Tracy's later years has been their grandson. Alison is married to Tim Beccue and they have a son, Preston, who was born in 2001. He was very close to his "PaPa" Short and even when Tracy wasn't well, he'd position himself on the floor with his back to the couch, surround himself with toys and play for hours with Preston. At the funeral services for Tracy, the Pastor asked if anyone would like to express any remembrances of Tracy. Preston, who was only five, whispered to his Mother, "Mom, I want to say something for PaPa." Alison, surprised, asked Letty, "What should I do?" Letty responded, "It's important to him so I'd let him speak." They handed the microphone to Preston and he recited the complete "Lord's Prayer" for his PaPa Short. Preston attends Immanuel Grade School and he recently told Letty, "I'm good with memory. I can say the Apostles' Creed, but I don't want to." When Letty encouraged him, "Please say it for Grandma," Preston recited the complete Apostle's Creed – at eight years old.

Besides going through the difficult time when her husband passed away, Letty has also been through the trying time of having breast cancer in May of 2004. She didn't have chemotherapy but did have radiation. Dr. Boyajian said the chemotherapy would only give her 2% more of a chance for good health and the side effects would be very hard to go through. However, the radiation did scar her lungs and has left her with some ongoing lung problems. It has been six years and she is still cancer free. PTL!!

Letty told me that her greatest fulfillment has been being a wife and mother. "Marrying the person I wanted and having my two children. I'd had three miscarriages and a doctor had told me I'd never have a baby so I consider my children as miracles and an answer to prayer." When I asked her about her most cherished memory, Letty said it would concern the same thing. She has enjoyed seeing her children grow up and she's very proud of them. Letty says Casey was always a good teenager and is a very responsible person although he is somewhat of a perfectionist. When Tracy was ill, Casey came home to help Letty care for him and since Tracy's passing, he still thinks Letty can't make it on her own. He has been a big help to Letty. Letty laughed and said, "Alison was a wild child but has matured into a sweet, compassionate person. – She's much like her father. She is such a good mother and wife and even though she was a slob as a teen-ager, she does everything well now, cooking, cleaning, etc. Growing up she always said she didn't want to be like me. Now she says she is turning into her mother!" Alison is active in her church and is currently Assistant Director of the After School Program at the Immanuel Lutheran Church.

I asked Letty about changes during her lifetime and she commented that the political situation is so unfair and corrupt. When I asked how she'd like to be remembered, Letty said, "I think sometimes people think I'm stuck up because I'm quiet and reserved, but I'm really just not an outgoing person. I hope people who know me well will know that I'm a nice person – I'm a good listener – and I'm dependable. That's important to me. If I say I'll do something, I want people to know I'll do it well." Having gone to church with Letty several years, I think she has achieved her wish. She's not only nice and dependable but a person you would be fortunate to have for a friend.