



THE OAKS



Riverton First United Methodist Church

MAY 1, 2010

MOTHER, MAY I?

In previous editions of the May newsletter, I have written about "May." I have spoken of May Day, the celebration of flowers and May poles. And I have written about May Day as a cry of distress, like SOS. Just when you think I have exhausted all possible ideas about May, here I come again.

In childhood we played a game called Mother, May I? One person played the part of "mother" and everyone else played the role of children. The mother would give instructions to the children individually, such as, "You may take three giant steps." The child could do so, but only after confirming permission from the mother by asking, "Mother, may I?". The mother would say yes, and the child would do as instructed.

I can't remember what the point of the game was. That is, I don't remember how anyone finished or won the game. I just remember the process: Listen to the instructions, respond by asking, "Mother, may I?" Then carry out the instructions. Come to think of it, that's not a bad lesson to take from a children's game: Listen; Ask permission; and Obey. Maybe that's all there was to the game. Maybe it was invented by some adult to get us to practice good behavior. Maybe it worked. At least this one child learned and remembered the process, and can now reflect on it as a lesson for people of all ages.

If we are going to get along and do well in life,



we need to listen. To mothers, to bosses, to spouses, to family, to God; we need to listen. You know the old rule about ears and mouths: one mouth, two ears, so listen twice as much as you talk. Enough said about that.

The key phrase in the game was "Mother, may I?" Addressing the authority figure as mother, not Mommy or some other familiar handle showed respect. We ought always to show respect, for everyone. It was also significant to me that we used the word "may." It was grammatically correct to say "may," not "can." We had learned that in school. This reinforced the lesson.

"Can" means to be able; "may" means to have permission. There are many things we *can* do that we are not or should not be *allowed* to do, from lying to stealing to murder. Confirming that we had the blessing of the authority figure to do what had been suggested was a good life lesson.

Finally, strict obedience was part of the game, doing only and exactly what we were told. Again, here's an important life lesson. This, then, is my bit of wisdom for you this month. Show respect; seek permission; and follow instructions. Let's try to apply it to our spiritual lives. Even if you are not comfortable in addressing God as mother, you can still confirm your plans and obey God's will, as if you had asked God, "Mother, may I?" before proceeding.

Pastor Jonathan Dixon

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to draw people into relationship with Christ and the church and to lovingly challenge them to spiritual growth.

OUR VISION

A warm fellowship of Christians in the Riverton area, growing in numbers and spiritual stature, with facilities and programs to do ministry in the name of Christ, for generations to come.

WORSHIP FLOWERS

You may have noticed that some Sundays we have flowers on the altar and sometimes we don't. The Worship Committee wants you to understand that we can have them as often as you want. That is, we can have them every Sunday if someone provides them. There is a clipboard on the table in the back of the sanctuary where you can sign up to provide flowers on the Sunday of your choice. Of course we have lilies on Easter and poinsettias at Christmas, but all the other dates are open until someone signs for them on the sheet. If you have questions about how to actually get them here or want suggestions on what kind would be appropriate, contact Patsy Skaggs, worship committee chair.



Mother and Child Banquet

Wednesday May 5th, 2010

Riverton United Methodist Church



All ladies and children are welcome. The meal is a Potluck; Meat, Desert and a Drink furnished. Bring a dish to share. Call for reservations by May 2nd to Barbara Rhodes 629-9247, Bonnie Klaves 629-9794, or Nancy Daniels 629-9336.



Come See Us At The Fellowship Hall.



CARDINALS BASEBALL



May 22 is United Methodist Day at Busch Stadium. The St. Louis Cardinals are playing the LA Angels. A bus is leaving Cantrall UMC at 10 AM for the 1:15 PM game. Price is \$50 for the bus ride and the game ticket.

For reservations call Ray Bounds at 217-546-7098.

Happy Birthday

Baumann, Beth	May 4
Pearson, Jon	May 4
Tester, Tracy	May 8
Fritzeen, Joan	May 9
Hughes, Rose Alice	May 13
Kruthaupt, Frances	May 15
McCullough, Judy	May 19
Pantier, Leanna	May 19
Abbott, Gloria	May 20
Stoneburner, Casey	May 22
Thomas, Cody	May 22
Sims, Anne	May 23
Phillips, Elizabeth	May 26

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Eric & Joan Fritzeen	May 2, 1954
Thomas & Majorie Todd	May 4, 1958
George & Patsy Skaggs	May 7, 1966
Brett & Carrie Pearson	May 12, 2001
Ernest & Theresa Grieme	May 19, 1978
Arthur & Janet Gowin	May 24, 1958
Paul & Rachel Walters	May 29, 1999
Blair & Debbie Stoneburner	May 30, 1981

Here Ye! Here Ye! Here Ye!

Come and join our first ever

“Drama, Ditties and Dinner”

Basically this came from a suggestion in the *Suggestion Box*.

The ideas developed into a night of fun and action.

Ideas for actions are:

1. Skits
2. Any Drama
3. Songs
4. Poem Reading
5. Pizza!!!
6. Any Fun Action is Welcome



This is on the schedule for May 22 starting at 6:00 PM so you can relax with fun and fellowship after a busy (or however you wish to describe it) week. More information will be coming soon.

Hold that date on your calendar!!! –MAY 21st , 6:00 PM start.

Baby Shower

Come to the Baby Shower for Ralph and Carly Shank

Sunday May 2nd

2:00 to 4:00 PM

It will be in the Fellowship Hall

They have the baby boy registered at:

Babies “R” Us

&

Target



May 2009

1	Saturday	
2	Sunday	9:30 AM, Worship, 10:30 AM, Sunday School, 11:30 AM, High School Youth, 2:00 PM Shank Baby Shower
3	Monday	7:00 PM, Trustees
4	Tuesday	
5	Wednesday	6:00 PM, Mother – Child Banquet
6	Thursday	Pastor on Vacation
7	Friday	Pastor on Vacation
8	Saturday	Pastor on Vacation, 7:30 AM, United Methodist Men
9	Sunday	Pastor on Vacation, Mother's Day, 9:30 AM, Worship, 10:30 AM, Coffee Fellowship and Sunday School, 6:00 PM, Junior High Youth
10	Monday	6:00 PM, Staff – Parish Relations Committee
11	Tuesday	7:00 PM, United Methodist Women
12	Wednesday	7:00 PM, Choir Practice
13	Thursday	7:00 PM, City Youth Workers Meeting
14	Friday	The Café Youth Meeting at Riverton Christian Church
15	Saturday	The United Methodists and Evangelical Lutherans will celebrate a joint worship service at St. John's Lutheran Church.
16	Sunday	9:30 AM, Worship, 10:30 AM, Coffee Fellowship and Sunday School, 11:30 AM, High School Youth, 6:30 PM, Finance Committee, 7:15 PM, Administrative Council
17	Monday	
18	Tuesday	
19	Wednesday	
20	Thursday	
21	Friday	6:00 PM, Drama, Dinner and Ditties
22	Saturday	
23	Sunday	Pentecost Sunday , 9:30 AM, Worship, 10:30 AM, Sunday School, 6:00 PM, Junior High Youth
24	Monday	
25	Tuesday	
26	Wednesday	
27	Thursday	
28	Friday	
29	Saturday	
30	Sunday	Trinity Sunday, Worship Outdoors Weather Permitting , 9:30 AM, Worship, 10:30 AM, Sunday School
31	Monday	Memorial Day



Christian Education



The dates for the Vacation Bible School are here!!!

Sunday, June 13th, through Thursday the 18th, 2010.

We will again be cooperating and working with the St. James Catholic Church. The registration and the opening program will be at the St. James church and the groups will travel between the Catholic Church and the Methodist Church to do all the activities created for the kids who attend. We hope to have some registration forms out in the near future—like

May 1st.



The United Methodist Women Will Meet:



May 11, Tuesday at 7:00 PM at

The Parkway Cafe, 2715 N. Dirksen Pkwy, Springfield

We welcome all the ladies of the Church. Please come join us if you can.



Come See Us At Fellowship The Hall.

P.S. We still have Pecans left, pieces \$7.00 halves \$8.00. Call Rose Hughes 629-9565, Barbara Rhodes 629-9247, Doris Lamkey 629-9556, Bonnie Klaves 629-9794—or—any member.





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THE OAKS

Deadline for next issue is
Sunday, **May 15, 2010**
E-mail articles to
newsletter@rivertonfirstumc.org



Looking Ahead

- † May 5, Mother-Child Banquet
- † May 9, Mother's Day
- † May 21 Dinner, Drama and Ditties
- † May 31, Memorial Day
- † June 2 – 5, Annual Conference in Peoria.
- † June 13-18, Vacation Bible School
- † June 20, Father's Day
- † July 4, Independence Sunday

- † September 12, United Methodist Women Sunday
- † October 23, Chili / Soup Supper and Bazaar
- † October 31, Trunk-er-Treat
- † November 7, United Methodist Men Sunday
- † November 21, 6:00 PM Community Thanksgiving Service
- † November 25, Thanksgiving
- † November 27, Hanging of the Greens
- † November 28, Advent Begins
- † December 24, 10:00, Christmas Eve Candle Light Service

