



THE OAKS



Riverton First United Methodist Church

AUGUST 1, 2010

Pastor's Letter

VACATION

As I sit to write the pastor's letter for this edition of *The Oaks*, I am about to go on vacation. Here are a few thoughts about vacation I have gathered. Gene Perrett tells about a man who returned to work after his vacation and was asked whether he had gone on his usual camping trip with his family. "No," he replied, "we just opened all the doors, removed the window screens, ate off dirty plates, and got the same effect." Joseph Salak observes that "this summer one third of the nation will be ill-housed, ill-fed and ill-clad. But they will call it a vacation." My own experience has been more like that of the man who went on vacation to forget everything. He opened his suitcase at the hotel on the first night out, and found that he had indeed forgotten everything. Robert Aiken would add that a "vacation is when you spend thousands of dollars to see what rain looks like in another part of the world."



So why do we go on vacations? We could stay home and enjoy many of the same inconveniences. Only in America would someone leave a two hundred thousand dollar house to sleep in a tent for two weeks and call it a vacation, it has been said. Without vacations, we might never have known that road construction season coincides with the tourist season other places too. Why does the church provide vacation time for the pastor and encourage him to get away? Surely it is not just a way of getting him out of their hair for a while.

Actually vacation is an extension of the biblical

principle of Sabbath. The Sabbath was taught and practiced by the Hebrew people of the Old Testament with the justification that it was ordained by God. In the fourth commandment they were told to remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. It meant that one day in seven was to be a day of rest. The explanation is that God created the world in six days, and rested on the seventh (Exodus 20:8-11). We should follow that example.

Jesus reinforced the idea of rest and time apart in the New Testament. He differed from the strictest interpreters of the Sabbath principle by healing on the Sabbath, which they considered to be working, and thus breaking the Sabbath. His reply was that the Sabbath was made for humans, not the other way around (Mark 2:27). Jesus did believe in taking time away to rest, to pray and to prepare for things to come. In Mark 6:31, after the feeding of the 5000, he told his disciples to "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." The narrative continues, "For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat." Jesus did it. He made his disciples do it. So I will do it too. I will take a vacation.

For your information, the occasion of this vacation trip is celebration of our 40th wedding anniversary. God has blessed me with a wonderful wife, Ellen, who has stuck with me for four decades. That calls for a celebration. And a vacation. We will travel to South Carolina to be with family, and more of the family will come there to join us, from North Carolina, California and Illinois. I hope to return refreshed and renewed for the work of ministry right here among you. I look forward to it.

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.



August 2009



1	Sunday	Friendship Day 9:30 AM, Worship, 10:30 AM, Sunday School, 11:30 AM, High School Youth
2	Monday	7:00 PM, Board of Trustees
3	Tuesday	
4	Wednesday	
5	Thursday	
6	Friday	
7	Saturday	
8	Sunday	9:30 AM, Worship, 10:30 AM, Sunday School
9	Monday	
10	Tuesday	7:00 PM, United Methodist Women
11	Wednesday	
12	Thursday	
13	Friday	
14	Saturday	7:30 AM, United Methodist Men
15	Sunday	9:30 AM, Worship, 10:30 AM, Sunday School, 11:30 AM, High School Youth, 6:30 PM, Finance Committee, 7:15 PM, Administrative Council
16	Monday	
17	Tuesday	
18	Wednesday	
19	Thursday	
20	Friday	
21	Saturday	
22	Sunday	9:30 AM, Worship, 10:30 AM, Sunday School
23	Monday	6:00 PM, Staff-Parish Relations Committee
24	Tuesday	
25	Wednesday	
26	Thursday	
27	Friday	
28	Saturday	
29	Sunday	9:30 AM, Worship, 10:30 AM, Sunday School
30	Monday	
31	Tuesday	



The United Methodist Women Will Meet:

Tuesday August 10th at 7:00 PM.

Carol Sims will be our speaker for United Methodist Women Sunday September 12th

Hostesses: are Nadine Mackenzie and Cheryl Beckner

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



Come See Us At The Fellowship 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.

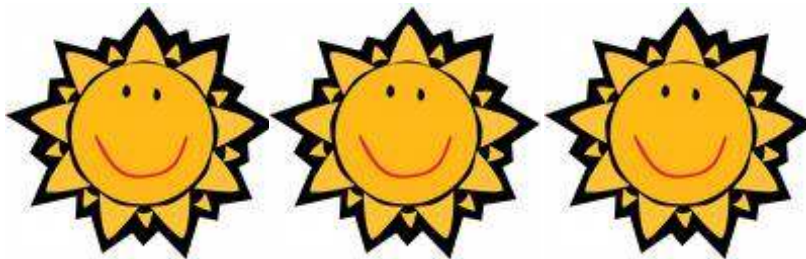
P.S. Program Cheryl Beckner

Happy Birthday

- ★ Beckey, Harriet August 3
- ★ Caldwell, Sarah August 3
- ★ Kleban, Virginia August 3
- ★ Zapp, David August 3
- ★ Eyer, JoAnna August 4
- ★ McKenzie, Michael August 5
- ★ Walters, Rachel August 6
- ★ Klaves, Dennis August 13
- ★ Julian, Jerry August 14
- ★ Peel, Jeff August 17
- ★ McKenzie, Hope August 17
- ★ Rhodes, Barbara August 18
- ★ Dial, Shawna August 19
- ★ Fetter, Hilda August 22
- ★ Baker, Pat August 25
- ★ Hughes, Bob August 25
- ★ Pearson, Craig August 25
- ★ Klaves, Bonnie August 26
- ★ Caldwell, Sharon August 29
- ★ Lomelino, Hazel August 29
- ★ Baumann, Kip August 31

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- ☀ Jonathan & Ellen Dixon August 8, 1970
- ☀ Doranne & Jerry Julian August 14, 1967
- ☀ Melvin & Cheryl Allison August 14, 1965
- ☀ Barry & Tracy Tester August 19, 1978
- ☀ Tom & Sharon Stroisch August 28, 1999



Thanks!



Thanks to those who have done such a wonderful job with keeping the Lawns mowed and manicured so well!!!



RIVERTON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

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THE OAKS

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



Looking Ahead

- † August 28, 5:00 PM Sunday School Teacher Picnic
- † September: Hospitality Month
- † September 12, United Methodist Women's Sunday
Also: Grandparents' Day
- † September 24-25, Welcoming Neighbors Seminar in Decatur
- † October 3, World Communion Sunday
- † October 23, Chili / Soup Supper and Bazaar

- † October 31, Trunk-er-Treat
- † November 7, United Methodist Men Sunday
Also: All Saints
- † 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

