

January 1, 2012

The Oaks



Riverton First United Methodist Church, (217) 629-9721

January Birthdays

2 Ron Armintrout (1951)
2 Cheryl Atkins (1944)
3 Cheryl Armintrout (1951)
15 Lauren Logsdon (1992)
18 Karen Koger (1961)
20 Connie Thomas (1966)
24 Nik Caldwell (1947)
29 Clarence (Butch) Baker (1953)
29 Robert Lucas (1979)
29 Brian Pfeiffer (1990)

January Anniversaries

2 John and Rose Cessna

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The Turning of the Year

Tradition has it that January, the first month of the year, is named for Janus, the Roman god of the doorway. Janus was said to have two faces, front and back on his head, so he could see both forward and backward. Stationed at the gate or door, he could see people both coming and going, according to the mythology.

Of course we don't believe in Janus, but we do believe in January. It is a time of looking both forward and backward, sometimes resulting in the making of resolutions – to make the new year better, or at least different, from the old one. I am not making any public resolutions right now, but I do want to share a few thoughts with you about 2011 and 2012.

First of all let me say "Thank You," in general for the privilege of working with you as a church family during 2011, and in particular for the generous cash gift you presented to me and my wife Ellen just before Christmas. We have already been able to do some "extra" things for

Christmas with some of it. We are holding the rest for a little later. Maybe you will see me in a nice new suit one of these Sunday mornings.

Looking back at 2011, we had some milestones worth remembering. Besides continuing our regular ministries like worship and Sunday School, there were some special highlights. We had a Confirmation Class and Vacation Bible School, several baptisms, and a Lenten Study group of healing of human hurts. A disappointment in 2011 was that we were unable to meet our budgetary goal for the year. We were not able to pay all our connectional obligations to the denominations. In response to that shortcoming we have formed a Stewardship group at the initiative of our elected Lay Leader, Grace Carriker.

We hope for better things in 2012. We will have our first Consecration Sunday emphasis to help us learn the joy of extravagant generosity. We are also optimistic about our Sunday School, with new

enthusiasm among our teachers. As pastor, I am looking at offering a Lenten Study group again, holding healing services in worship, and maybe planning some outings for fellowship and spiritual growth. (One such opportunity is coming up soon, January 29, a Sunday afternoon. It is our annual District Leadership Development training, at Laurel UMC in Springfield, from 2-5 PM.) I solicit your input on other areas of interest for these ideas.

My main intention in 2012 is to listen for the leading of the Holy Spirit, that in preaching, teaching and conversation I will be able to interpret the words and will of God to this church and community. Happy New Year! May we have a blessed time together in 2012.

Pastor Jonathan Dixon

Trustee News



The trustees have completed their inspection of the parsonage home just before the Charge Conference meeting. They talked about the renovation of the laundry area in the basement and other possibilities. The

other project for the home is the remodeling of the kitchen and dining areas. The cabinets are the original cabinets and many of the doors will not stay closed. It is time to be considering an up-date for that kitchen.

A major concern for the near future is the need for help in keeping our church walks, steps and parking areas cleaned when there is snow. If you have the time to assist with these needs, please let us know.

Sunday School Happenings

2012 is here and the Sunday School Program is ready for a fun-filled year. Children ages 3 through college are welcome to attend after worship at 10:30 a.m. Join us in the fellowship hall for some singing with Carly Shank. During this time children will learn the favorite Sunday School songs that we all know and love plus take the time to celebrate birthdays and special events

happening in the children's lives. After that time of worship, children are dismissed to the following classes:

PreK-Kindergarten: Hope McKenzie (nursery)
 Primary (grades 1-3): Carly Shank (left section of fellowship hall)
 Intermediate (grades 4-6): Karen Koger (center section)
 Young teens (grades 7-9): Nadine Mackenzie (right

section)
 High school/college (grades 10+): Mary Dial (kitchen)

Please plan on joining us in 2012! If you have never come, just come and try us out. I pray that your child's time in Sunday School will be a time they will never forget.

Happy New Year,
 Nadine Mackenzie
 Christian Education
 Director

January Bible Readings

Below is the reading schedule to continue our project of reading through the Bible in one year. I will continue to use passages from the week's readings in our worship together (although I varied from that some for special days like Christmas Eve and Day) . May we know God's blessing as you read and as we worship together using these readings.

| | Law | History | Psalms | Poetry | Prophets | Gospels | Epistles |
|------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat | Sun |
| Jan. 2-8 | Exodus 37-40 | 1 Kings 5-9 | Psalms 66-68 | Proverbs 2-3 | Lam. 1-5 | Luke 9-10 | Galatians 4-6 |
| Jan. 9-15 | Lev. 1-3 | 1 Kings 10-13 | Psalms 69-71 | Proverbs 4 | Ezek. 1-6 | Luke 11-12 | Eph. 1-3 |
| Jan. 16-22 | Lev. 4-6 | 1 Kings 14-18 | Psalms 72-74 | Proverbs 5-6 | Ezek. 7-12 | Luke 13-14 | Eph. 4-6 |
| Jan. 23-29 | Lev. 7-9 | 1 Kings 19-22 | Psalms 75-77 | Proverbs 7-8 | Ezek. 13-18 | Luke 15-16 | Phil. 1-3 |
| Jan.30– Feb.5 | Lev. 10-12 | 2 Kings 1-5 | <i>Psalms</i> 78-80 | <i>Proverbs</i> 9 | <i>Ezek.</i> 19-24 | <i>Luke</i> 17-18 | <i>Phillip.</i> 4 |

Scrip News

WOW!!!! That says it all....WOW! During this past year of 2011 the SCRIP program has been a fantastic success, because of YOU! This program was begun in our Church with the idea that the proceeds would pay directly on the principal of the large loan we have. In case you don't remember, the loan was used to put a new roof on the church, up-date the little restroom

and install a handicap accessible restroom, get hot water in both restrooms, prepare the church yard so the water would drain away from the church building (instead of into the basement), install outdoor lighting for safety and security, and design/construct a useable parking area. The trustees have worked hard to preserve our beautiful church and facilities.

The SCRIP program paid \$3,500.00 on the loan principal during 2011. With your purchasing decisions in December, it shouldn't be long before another payment will be made in early 2012. For your convenience a SCRIP order sheet is enclosed. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the minister or Judy McCullough.



United Methodist Women

THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN WILL MEET:

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10TH 7PM

PROGRAM: PRAYER & SELF DENIAL; GRACE CARRIKER

HOSTESSES: DAR SCHERMERHORN, GRACE CARRIKER

& EILEEN KENDLE

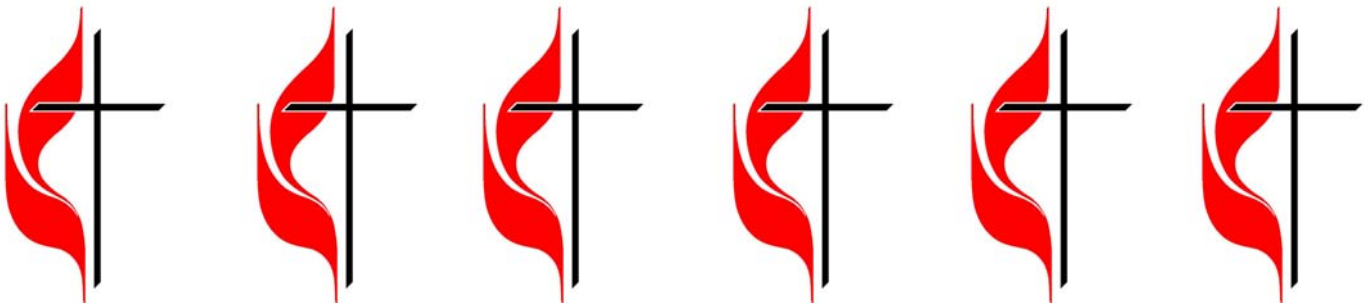
We welcome all the ladies of the Church.

Come see us in the fellowship hall.

January Calendar



| | |
|----|--|
| 1 | New Year's Day 9:30 AM Covenant Service in Worship, 10:30 AM Sunday School |
| 2 | 7:30 PM Board of Trustees |
| 3 | 7:00 PM Stewardship Team Meeting |
| 4 | 9:00 AM Quilting, 7:00 PM Choir Practice |
| 5 | |
| 6 | |
| 7 | |
| 8 | Baptism of Our Lord Sunday 9:30 AM Worship, 10:30 AM Sunday School 6:30 PM Finance Committee, 7:15 PM Administrative Council |
| 9 | |
| 10 | |
| 11 | 9:00 AM Quilting, 7:00 PM Choir Practice |
| 12 | |
| 13 | |
| 14 | |
| 15 | Human Relations Sunday 9:30 AM Worship, 10:30 AM Sunday School News items due for February issue of <i>The Oaks</i> |
| 16 | Martin Luther King, Jr. Day |
| 17 | |
| 18 | 9:00 AM Quilting, 7:00 PM Choir Practice |
| 19 | |
| 20 | |
| 21 | 4-7 PM UMM Chicken Noodle Dinner |
| 22 | 9:30 AM Worship, 10:30 AM Sunday School |
| 23 | |
| 24 | |
| 25 | 9:00 AM Quilting, 7:00 PM Choir |
| 26 | |
| 27 | |
| 28 | |
| 29 | 9:30 AM Worship, 10:30 AM Sunday School 2-5 PM District Leadership Development training at Laurel UMC, Springfield |
| 30 | |
| 31 | |



**Riverton First United
Methodist Church**

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We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.rivertonfirstumc.com

Looking Ahead

- | | |
|-------------|--------------------------------|
| February 4 | Church Family Valentine Dinner |
| February 12 | Consecration Sunday |
| February 21 | Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper |
| February 22 | Ash Wednesday |
| March 3 | Chili Supper |

Next Newsletter Deadline:
January 15, 2012
carlyshank@yahoo.com

**RIVERTON FIRST
UNITED METHODIST**
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Riverton, IL 62561



Address Correction Requested