

March 1, 2012

The Oaks



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

Prayer in an Old Age

Lord, you know better than I know myself that I am getting older and will someday be old. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from the craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody, helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom it seems a pity not to use it all, but you know, Lord, that I want a few friends at the end. Keep my mind from the recital of endless details – give me wings to come to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing, and my love for reciting them is becoming sweeter. I dare not ask for grace to enjoy the tales of others' pains, but help me to endure them with patience. I dare not ask for improved memory, but for a growing humility and a lessening cock-sureness when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken. Keep me reasonably sweet. I do not want to be a saint – some of them are so hard to live with – but a sour old woman is one of the crowning works of the devil. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places, and talents in unexpected people. And give me the grace to tell them so.

- Attributed to a Seventeenth-Century Nun

The above prayer was shared with me by a member of the congregation, and I found it so good that I chose to pass it along to you as part of

the pastor's letter in this month's edition of *The Oaks*. I hope you will find it as delightful as I did. It was published in the book *She Who Laughs Lasts* compiled by Ann Spangler (Zondervan, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 2000 p. 204).

A couple of additional thoughts. THANK YOU for your response to our recent Consecration Sunday promotion. A number of you expressed the intention to increase your giving to God through the church this year. If we are all able to carry out our good intentions, the church will be able to do all the ministries projected in our budget, and perhaps more. We will know the blessing of giving and the blessing of seeing God's work go forward through us and our church. A word to those among us who don't care for such programs in the church, or who were surprised to receive mailings from us just because you are on our newsletter list: please be patient with us. We are mere humans trying to fulfill our calling to be the servants of God.

We are now in the season of Lent. The theme of my thinking, and my intention in preaching this season, is that we pursue holiness in our lives by loving our neighbors as ourselves – always, but especially during Lent. May God bless you and work through your life to demonstrate the love of God this Lent.

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 nurture, with facilities and programs to do ministry in the name of Jesus Christ for generations to come.

RFUMC Calendar – March 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 First Thursday, a day of Fasting and Prayer	2	3 4 - 7 PM Chili/Soup Supper
4 Second Sunday of Lent, 9:30 AM Worship, 10:30 AM Sunday School	5 Pastor at Q3 Conference in Kentucky 7:00 PM Board of Trustees	6 Pastor at Q3 Conference in Kentucky	7 Pastor at Q3 Conference in Kentucky 9:00 AM Quilting 7:00 PM Choir Practice	8	9	10 7:30 AM United Methodist Men
11 Third Sunday of Lent, 9:30 AM Worship, 10:30 AM Sunday School, 6:30 PM Finance Committee, 7:15 PM Administrative Council	12 6:00 PM United Methodist Men's Annual Meeting	13 7:00 PM United Methodist Women	14 9:00 AM Quilting 7:00 PM Choir Practice	15	16	17
18 Fourth Sunday of Lent, 9:30 AM Worship, 10:30 AM Sunday School	19	20 First Day of Spring	21 9:00 AM Quilting 7:00 PM Choir Practice	22	23	24
25 Fifth Sunday of Lent, 9:30 AM Worship with guest musician Laurel Jean, 10:30 AM Sunday School, 2 PM Comm. Choir Cantata at Baptist Church	26	27	28 9:00 AM Quilting 7:00 PM Choir Practice	29	30	31

Looking Ahead...

April 1, Palm/Passion Sunday

April 6, Good Friday, Joint Worship with First Baptist Church, *Here*

April 8, Easter Sunday, 7:00 AM Sunrise Service with First Baptist Church, *There*

May 2, 6 PM Mother – Child Banquet

June 10-16 Vacation Bible School, cooperating with St. James Catholic Church



March 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 we may vary from it some for a special day like Palm Sunday). May we know God's blessing as we read and worship together using these readings.

MARCH	<i>Law</i>	<i>History</i>	<i>Psalms</i>	<i>Poetry</i>	<i>Prophets</i>	<i>Gospels</i>	<i>Epistles</i>
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Feb. 27– Mar. 4	<i>Levit.</i> 22-24	<i>2 Kings</i> 21-25	<i>Psalms</i> 90-92	Proverbs 15	Ezek. 43-48	John 1-2	1 Thess 4-5
Mar. 5-11	Lev. 25-27	1 Chron. 1-4	Psalms 93-95	Proverbs 16	Dan. 1-6	John 3-4	2 Thess.
Mar. 12- 18	Num. 1-4	1 Chron. 5-9	Psalms 96-98	Proverbs 17-18	Dan. 7-12	John 5-6	1 Tim. 1-3
Mar. 19- 25	Num. 5-8	1 Chron. 10-14	Psalms 99-102	Proverbs 19	Hos. 1-7	John 7-9	1 Tim. 4-6
Mar. 26– <i>Apr. 1</i>	Num. 9-12	1 Chron. 15-19	Psalms 103-104	Proverbs 20-21	Hos. 8-14	John 10-12	2 <i>Tim.</i> 1-2

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Art Gowin	March 2, 1936
Carol Wells	March 4, 1939
J.T. Armbruster	March 8, 1977
Mary Dial	March 11, 1965
Leonora Logsdon	March 12, 1988
Rick Carr	March 14, 1947
Jeff Koger	March 19, 1960
Liam Byers	March 20, 2008
Bill Kleban	March 21, 1925
Doris Davis	March 24, 1927
Jerry McCullough	March 25, 1939
Craig Thomas	March 26

The United Methodist Women will meet:

Tuesday, March 13th 7 p.m.

Program: Betty Peel

Hostesses: Marsha Sutton
and Sharon Stroisch

We welcome all the ladies of the church.

Come see us in the fellowship hall.



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

David and Cheryl Beckner	March 1
Jim and Mary Dial	March 10, 1990



Electronic Distribution of Newsletter

If you are unaware, please know that we have begun to distribute the RFUMC newsletter electronically. Electronic distribution saves resources and postage costs. If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically, please send an email to rvtnumc@sbcglobal.net requesting this method of delivery. Since emails do not always do so, be sure to identify yourself in the email so that we can know who you are.

We recognize that some people will prefer to receive the newsletter by U.S. mail; rest assured we will not discontinue a paper version for these individuals.

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Next Newsletter Deadline:
March 18, 2012
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