

May 1, 2012

# The Oaks



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

## PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN HIGH PLACES

As I sit down in late April to write a letter for the May newsletter, I am reflecting on a passage in scripture where Paul speaks to Timothy, his protégé, as follows. “First of all, then, I urge that supplications and prayers, intercessions and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions (1 Timothy 2:1-2). I particular, I am thinking about praying for those “in high positions.”

I am reminded of this by several things, most immediately by the fact that I recently had the privilege of offering the invocation for one of the daily sessions of the Illinois State Senate. So what should I say when presented the opportunity to address that august body? Should I tell them what to do about the budget, the backlog of unpaid bills and the unfunded future liability of the pension system? Probably not. I do have some opinions on those issues, but the senators already have their own views on them, formed by a deeper knowledge of the complexities of the matters than I could possibly have. What the legislators need more than my wise words is wisdom from God. That is what I asked for in the prayer that I offered: for wisdom to make good decisions and form sound policies.

It is my responsibility as a citizen and a Christian to pay attention to public affairs and to vote. But that is just the beginning. I am urged by the scripture to pray. Whether these office-holders are the ones I voted for or not, whether I agree with the policies being enacted or not, I should pray for those in high offices.

Another aspect of the lesson I am taking from the scripture is my duty to pray for those in high positions in the church. Right now as I write, and on into early May, our United Methodist General Conference is in session. This is the only legislative body in our denomination; it meets just once every four years. About a thousand delegates from around the world are voting on organizational structures, budgets and policies for the next quadrennium. They need our prayers of support – that they will know the presence of the Holy Spirit, with gifts of wisdom and tolerance, as they grapple with financial challenges and controversial issues. Please join me in lifting them up in prayer.

One more thought. As you hear the urging of the scripture (and my comments thereon) that you should pray for those in high offices, please pray for your pastor. The office of pastor in the church is a high position of spiritual responsibility. Pray that I will rightly understand and interpret the Bible in my preaching from week to week. Pray that I will have insight into the real human needs of the congregation and the community, and compassion to address those needs. Ask the Holy Spirit to speak to me, and through me, to touch people’s lives and to draw them to Jesus Christ. And while you are at it, pray for my health as well.

Thank you. I will pray for you too.

Pastor Jonathan Dixon

# RFUMC Calendar – May 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 9:30 AM Quilting, 6:00 PM Mother – Child Banquet	3 First Thursday, National Day of Prayer	4	5
6 9:30 AM Worship, 10:30 AM Sunday School	7 7:00 PM Board of Trustees	8 7:00 PM United Methodist Women	9 9:30 AM Quilting, 7:00 PM Choir Practice	10	11	12 7:30 AM United Methodist Men
13 Mother’s Day, 9:30 AM Worship, 10:30 AM Coffee Fellowship, 10:35 AM Sunday School	14 6:30 PM Finance Committee, 7:15 PM Administrative Council	15	16 9:30 AM Quilting, 7:00 PM Choir Practice	17	18	19
20 Ascension Sunday, 9:30 AM Worship – Healing, 10:30 AM Sunday School	21	22	23 9:30 AM Quilting, 6:00 PM Prayer Team, 7:00 PM Choir Practice	24	25	26
27 Pentecost Sunday, 9:30 AM Worship, 10:30 AM Sunday School	28 Memorial Day	29	30 9:30 AM Quilting	31		

## Looking Ahead...

June 6-9, Annual Conference in Peoria  
 June 8-11, Pastor’s Vacation  
 June 9, UM Day at Cardinals Game, Busch Stadium  
 June 10-14, Vacation Bible School in Cooperation with St. James Catholic Church  
 June 17, Father’s Day  
 September 9, United Methodist Women Sunday  
 October 13, Chili Supper



# May 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 special days like Mother's Day or Pentecost). May we know God's blessing as we read and worship together using these passages.

MAY	<i>Law</i>	<i>History</i>	<i>Psalms</i>	<i>Poetry</i>	<i>Prophets</i>	<i>Gospels</i>	<i>Epistles</i>
	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Sunday</b>
Apr 30 –May 6	Num. 29-32	2 Chron. 11-15	Psalms 117-118	Proverbs 28	Jonah	Acts 3-4	Heb. 5-7
May 7-13	Num. 33-36	2 Chron. 16-20	Psalms 119	Proverbs 29-30	Micah	Acts 5-6	Heb. 8-10
May 14-20	Deut. 1-3	2 Chron. 21-24	Psalms 120-121	Proverbs 31	Nahum	Acts 7-8	Heb. 11-13
May 21-27	Deut. 4-6	2 Chron. 25-28	Psalms 122-124	Eccles. 1-2	Habakkuk	Acts 9-10	James 1-3
May 28 –June 3	Deut. 7-9	2 Chron. 29-32	Psalms 125-127	Eccles. 3-4	Zephaniah	Acts 11-12	James 4-5

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

Beth Baumann	May 4
John Pearson	May 6, 2004
Tracy Tester	May 8
Joan Fritzeen	May 9
Joshua Higgins	May 11, 2011
Sahara Higgins	May 11, 2011
Rose Alice Hughes	May 13, 1937
Judy McCullough	May 19, 1945
Leanna Pantier	May 19, 1993
Gloria Abbott	May 20, 1927
Casey Stoneburner	May 22, 1993
Cody Thomas	May 22, 1996
Ann Sims	May 23, 1997



## MAY ANNIVERSARIES

Eric and Joan Fritzeen	May 2, 1954
Thomas and Marjorie Todd	May 4, 1958
George and Patsy Skaggs	May 7, 1966
Arthur and Janet Gowin	May 24, 1958
John and Sandy Caldwell	May 25, 1996



Riverton First United Methodist  
429 East Lincoln  
Riverton, IL 62561



Address Correction Requested



RFUMC PHONE: (217) 629-9721

E-MAIL: [rvrtnumc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rvrtnumc@sbcglobal.net)

WEBSITE: [www.rivertonfirstumc.com](http://www.rivertonfirstumc.com)

Next Newsletter Deadline:  
May 20, 2012  
[carlyshank@yahoo.com](mailto:carlyshank@yahoo.com)

**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.