

February 1, 2013

# The Oaks



Riverton First United Methodist Church (217) 629-9721

## Thoughts from Pastor Dixon

In February this year we have Lincoln's Birthday, Ash Wednesday and St. Valentine's Day on three consecutive calendar days. Lincoln's Birthday is important because we are in Illinois, the Land of Lincoln. Valentine's Day is important because we all need love in our lives. As a church we will not do anything to observe Lincoln's birthday, except maybe look for a quotation from him for the meditation sentence in the bulletin, or maybe use some incident from his life to illustrate a sermon point. We will observe Valentine's Day with the Family Valentine Dinner, but on February 9th instead of the 14th. The dinner will be a fun time and raise money for the church, but it has no great theological significance. The spiritually significant observance in our church life is Ash Wednesday. We will come together to worship, to reflect on our lives and consider changes we can make for spiritual benefit during the season of Lent. Thus, we will "give up" or "take on" some indulgence or discipline for the next six weeks or so until Easter.

One of the things I want to do is to lead a Lenten Study again this year on the Wednesday evenings during Lent. I am leaning toward a series of lessons on Life, Loss and Living in the Difficult Seasons of our Lives. The idea is to help us live with such things as discouragement, loss of loved ones, broken hearts, difficult relationships and even our own mortality. The goal would be to find strength for ourselves and ways to be of support to others around us. I have both scripture studies and a resource book in mind. A Preview Meeting is scheduled for February 6, before Lent begins, to gauge the level of interest, or perhaps consider alternative plans. You can come to the preview, or speak to me between now and then with your thoughts.

During Lent I expect to bring a series of sermons I will call Wilderness Stories. The messages will relate to the concept of passing through the "wilderness" of Lent before we get to the exuberance of Easter. My hope is that it will supplement the messages of the Lenten study without duplicating them. It's what God seems to be putting on my heart right now.

On a different subject, at our Finance and Administration Meeting recently, we received reports that we completed 2012 with all obligations paid and a little reserve in our church account. Thank you for your generous support of the church budget. Costs are up this year, as they always are from year to year. (They never go down.) So our 2013 budget has increased some as well. Some of the increase is that we want to resume supporting a missionary again. We had stopped because of the financial crunch, but we are now in a better position to do this as part of our obedience to the Great Commission Jesus gave in Matthew 28:19: Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Please pray with me for God's blessings in attendance, in outreach, in finances and in fellowship as we continue to serve God here together.

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 – February 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 7:30 AM United Methodist Men
3 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Sunday School; 2:00 PM Audit Meeting	4 7:00 PM Board of Trustees	5	6 9:00 AM Quilt- ing; 6:00 PM Lenten Study Preview; 7:00 PM Choir	7	8	9 6:00 PM Family Val- entine Dinner
10 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Sunday School; 6:30 PM Fi- nance and Admin- istration Meeting	11	12	13 9:00 AM Quilt- ing; 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Ser- vice	14 St. Valen- tine's Day	15	16
17 First Sunday of Lent 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Coffee Fellowship; 10:35 AM Sunday School	18 Presidents' Day	19	20 9:00 AM Quilt- ing; 5:00 PM Membership Team; 6:00 PM Lenten Study; 7:00 PM Choir	21	22	23
24 Second Sunday of Lent 9:30 AM Wor- ship; 10:30 AM Sun- day School	25	26	27 9:00 AM Quilt- ing; 6:00 PM Lenten Study; 7:00 PM Choir	28		

## Looking Ahead...

March 2, Chili/Vegetable Soup Supper  
 March 24, Palm/Passion Sunday  
 March 29, Good Friday 7:00 PM Service at First Baptist Church  
 March 31, Easter Sunday 7:00 AM Sunrise Service here; 8:00 AM  
 Fellowship Breakfast; 9:30 Worship; 10:30 Sunday School Activity  
 May 1, Mother – Child Banquet  
 May 12, Mother's Day  
 May 19, Consecration Sunday  
 June 16, Father's Day

*NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 17*

### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Keaton Martincic	2/4/2008
Carson Beattie	2/6/2007
Les Hendricks	2/8/1936
Melvin Allison	2/11/1947
Roberta Bernahl	2/11/1929
Aden Byers	2/14/2005
Melissa Pantier	2/16/1962
David Beckner	2/17
Jeri Sucech	2/19/1965
Devan Martincic	2/22/2001
Carly Shank	2/24
Katie Sutton	2/24/1979
Kim Rusciollelli	2/26/1954
Taylor Binion	2/28/2009



# Riverton Methodist Church Chili and Soup Supper

Where: 429 E. Lincoln St.  
When: Saturday, March 2, 2013  
Time: 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Donations: \$7.00  
Chili or Soup, Dessert and a Drink; Chicken Salad Sandwich  
and Hot Dogs are Extra.

EAT IN OR CARRY OUT



## Family Valentine Dinner Concert and Silent Auction

Saturday, February 9

On Saturday, February 9 at 6:00 p.m., we will hold a three-course fundraising dinner and silent auction with entertainment provided by the Land of Lincoln Barbershop Quartet.

RUMC hosts this annual dinner as a fundraiser for its long-term planning purposes. The three-course dinner (great home-cooking by the members of the church) will be held in the accessible fellowship hall at the church.

The church relies on the important donations of many area businesses and organizations in support of this event. Items that will be auctioned include gift certificates for many area businesses and restaurants, Longaberger baskets, Avon products and jewelry, gift baskets with a Valentine theme, jewelry, games and toys, and many more items!!

This event has gained a reputation as a great time of music, fellowship and friendship. Reservations are required, as space is quite limited. Contact Melissa Pantier at 629-7248 to make reservations or sign up at church.

### FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Ron and Cheryl Atkins	2/11/1967
Butch and Pat Baker	2/14
Jerry and Judy McCullough	2/18/1970
Roger and Melissa Pfeiffer	2/27/1988



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)

## Church Committees

Recently the Stewardship Committee met and determined that there may be members of the congregation that are not aware of what certain committees and groups do in the church. It was decided to place an article regarding one of these committees or groups in the newsletter each month to inform the congregation and perhaps interest some of you to join a committee or group and enhance our church with your knowledge and talents.

This month our committee is the Hospitality and Growth. The purpose of this committee organizes and hostess the after church refreshments and fellowship, refreshments after church events and other functions as needed. This committee meets as needed. If you have any questions or are interested in joining the committee, please contact a member of the committee. Current committee members are: Sharon Caldwell, Grace Carriker, Mary Dial, Rose Hughes, Kathy Jones, Karen Koger, Lori Payne-Mullett, Barbara Rhodes and Sharon Stroisch.

**THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN  
WILL MEET:  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH AT 7:00 P.M.**

**PROGRAM: MARSHA SUTTON**

**HOSTESSES: HARRIET AND KIM BECKEY**

We welcome all the ladies of the Church.  
Come see us in the fellowship hall.

**FOOD PANTRY MONTH  
WE STILL HAVE A FEW PECAN PIECES - \$8.50  
P.S. Chili Supper March 2nd**