

November 1, 2013

The Oaks



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

Scratchings from the Dixon Pencil

Hunger Before the Feast

Thanksgiving comes up this month. Turkey with all the trimmings; yams, cranberries, pumpkin pie – a veritable feast. And, oh yes, thankfulness.

How will you prepare for the Thanksgiving feast? I've heard of people fasting a day or at least a few hours before the big meal to work up an appetite equivalent to the abundance. I say I've heard of that, but never known anyone to actually do it. There are usually too many tasty snacks and treats around to tempt us. But even with appetites slightly blunted by snacks, we still manage to eat too much.

I am reminded of Jesus' words in Luke 6:21. "Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be filled." A very similar passage is in Matthew 5:6. "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled." In both cases, Jesus is promising fullness – something we all can appreciate. But in the scriptural context he seems to be talking about something more than physical hunger for material food. We are invited by our Lord to whet our spiritual appetites. That is, to develop and maintain interest in things of God. We don't do this by fasting from godly things in advance of the filling, nor by snacking of superficial spirituality of some dull routine such as habitual obligatory church attendance. We develop a hunger, a taste, for righteousness by conscious repeated exposure to the sources of God's grace.

Interestingly, one of the key habits for developing the hunger which only God can fill is the practice of gratitude. Noticing things we can be thankful for, and expressing thanks to God and others, will go a long way toward cultivating a hunger for more awareness of God's presence, and fellowship with God's people.

The story is told of Captain Eddie Rickenbacker, a hero of World War II. For years he was seen down by the ocean every Friday evening with a bucket of shrimp to feed to the birds. He explained his actions by recalling his experience of October, 1942. His B-17 ran out of fuel over the Pacific and went down. His crew of eight made it into lifeboats, but they were left adrift in the vast ocean. They battled the sun, the sharks, the waves and most of all, hunger. When it seemed the end had come and they had prayed their last prayer, Eddie fell asleep with his cap over his eyes. He was awakened by a bird landing on his head. If he could catch it, they could eat and live. He caught it. They ate, and used the bird's entrails for fish bait. They survived. So for years after retirement Rickenbacker fed the birds at the ocean as his way of saying thank you.

In all circumstances there are things to be thankful for. Notice your blessings. Say thank you. Develop an appetite for righteousness. And those who hunger will be filled, as Jesus said.

Thanks for reading,
Pastor Jonathan Dixon

RFUMC Calendar – November 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 5:30 PM Wiener Roast on Church Grounds	2
3 All Saints Sunday 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Adult Bible Class; 5:00 PM Church Conference at Sherman UMC	4 7:00 PM Board of Trustees	5 Election Day	6 9:00 AM Quilt- ing (Making School Bags); 7:00 PM Choir Practice	7	8	9
10 United Methodist Men Sunday 9:30 Worship with Guest Speaker Rev. George Heineman; 10:30 AM Cof- fee Fellowship; 10:35 AM Adult Bible Class; Veterans Day Observance at Memo- rial in Veterans Park, Ri- verton	11 Veterans Day	12 7:00 PM United Methodist Women	13 9:00 AM Quilt- ing; 6:00 PM Community Thanksgiving Dinner at the Church	14	15	16
17 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Adult Bible Class (Turkeys Due for Food Pantry)	18	19 6:00 PM United Methodist Men	20 9:00 AM Quilt- ing; 7:00 PM Choir Practice	21	22	23
24 Christ the King Sunday 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Adult Bible Class; 6:00 PM Community Thanksgiving Service at First Baptist Church	25	26	27 9:00 AM Quilt- ing; 7:00 PM Choir Practice	28 Thanksgiving Day	29	30 9:00 AM Hanging of the Greens

November Anniversaries

Timothy and Bobbie Sexton	November 9, 1979
Don and Marsha Sutton	November 23, 1973
James and Kim Rusciollelli	November 23, 1983
Tom and Melissa Pantier	November 23, 1981
Dennis and Bonnie Klaves	November 27, 1958

Looking Ahead...

December 3, UMW Christmas Party
 December 7, Parsonage Open House
 December 15, Evening Christmas Musical
 December 24, Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
 January 18, UMM Beef – Noodle Supper

November Birthdays

Grace Carriker	November 2, 1930
Nancy Daniels	November 5, 1941
Bobbie Sexton	November 8, 1958
Cheryl Allison	November 9
Bill Mann, Jr.	November 10
Ellen Dixon	November 12, 1947
Vernon Morris	November 14
Tom Pantier	November 16, 1957
Scott Binion	November 18, 1976
Elijah Byers	November 20, 2009

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 17

Notes from your Certified Lay Minister

The calendar year is ending as is my first year of being your Certified Lay Minister. I have enjoyed working in this task as I have always enjoyed working in any church. However, it has been a privilege to do this work in THIS church. You are a joy and it is exciting seeing the spark to try serving even more than you already do.

When this newsletter is distributed we will be getting ready for the Church Conference that happens every year. This is an open meeting where anyone from the church can come and see the finality of our elections and other decisions get approved by the conference. I am up for approval and cherish the thought of working with you for another year. That is **NOVEMBER 3rd**.

Other happenings in November are:

November 1--an old-fashioned **WEINER ROAST** at the fire in the church yard. 6pm is the start of the meal and roasting of food but the yard is open for games before that. Hot dogs are furnished and side dishes can be brought to share.

November 13th — **COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER** sponsored by the Teddy Bear Christian Day Care. Our church is the hosting site. We are bringing the pumpkin pies and whipped topping and signing people in as they bring a food item for the Riverton Food Pantry as the admittance fee. This is from 6-8 p.m. that evening.

November 17th – This is the Sunday when you can **BRING YOUR FRESH/FROZEN TURKEY DONATIONS** for the Thanksgiving Baskets from the Riverton Food Pantry. Jeri will be ready to deliver them to a freezer in preparation.

December 1st (I know this is next month --but the 1st comes early) – Advent begins and we are looking forward to working with the **UNITED METHODIST MEN** to celebrate. Each Sunday will feature a different person in the Nativity during the Children's Message, with a live character that will be part of a live Nativity in back of Sanctuary. The Nativity will be augmented weekly for a full Live Nativity Scene for Christmas.

After the Children's Message each Sunday in December all youth will be in the Fellowship Hall for Sunday School time with this Advent Theme.

Thanks,
Ellen Dixon



Trustees News

The parsonage is finally completed and the Dixons get their home back to themselves!

The last part of October the trustee men began investigating the structure of the entry of the lift. They need to determine what will be necessary to install a new door frame and set the door inside several inches (closer to the lift's gate). This is a project that we hope to be able to complete with the simple installation of a new door and frame. More on this project later as it is being fixed.

The last Saturday of October was designated as a yard clean-up day. The church yard and driveway/parking lot needed to be cleaned before our big "Trunk-er Treat" party at Halloween.

Well, after Halloween you know what is next! Thanksgiving and Christmas Season! Time to begin the preparations for the decorating of those seasons!

Scrip News

By the time of the release of this newsletter, the SCRIP account will have paid another \$1,000.00 on the principal of the church's loan!!! With Christmas season coming up, perhaps we can accumulate enough to pay another pay-down on the loan before the end of the year.

Speaking of the Christmas season.....following are the SCRIP dates for the rest of the year:

November 3 is an order day

November 10 is a pick-up day

November 17 is an order day

Then on November 24, December 1, December 8 and December 15 will become order days and pick-up days (order one week and pick the cards up the next week).

December 22 will be a pick-up day.

Our SCRIP program will then take a break until the new year. We will resume our usual plan of order Sundays are the first and third weeks of a month; the pick-up Sundays are the second and fourth weeks of a month.

Please, keep in mind that during the Advent Season, the SCRIP folks have several companies that increase the donation of their cards. We will make every effort to keep our church members and friends advised on these increases as we get the information. We are very grateful for the participation that this program has received.

Choir Notes

The choir is enjoying preparing for fall worship services and the Christmas musical on the evening of Sunday, December 15. If you would like to join us, know that more are always welcome! There is certainly no audition or solo singing required; we welcome anyone who wants to raise their voice in song. The children of the Sunday School will also sing in the Christmas musical on December 15; more information will be forthcoming.

Quilting Update

The quilters are still quilting on a beautiful antique handkerchief quilt. We would welcome extra help on this quilt and would be willing to teach you if you do not know how to quilt.

This group meets every Wednesday morning from 9:00 A.M. till 11:30 A.M. Come join the fun.

On the first Wednesday of November, we will not quilt. Work will be done to make the school bags. This is a project that was started in September and hopefully will be completed on November 6. Everyone is welcome to help. Someone needs to iron; or cut; or mark; or sew; or turn material; or pin pieces; etc. There is a job for everyone. Mark your calendar for Nov. 6 at 9:00 A.M. until 11:30 A.M.



Notes of Gratitude from Ellen Dixon

1. For all the support in making the Pancake and Sausage Breakfast happen. It served the Riverton Food Pantry well by giving them a check for \$3,200 to help buy supplies for the regular Pantry and any materials they may need for the Holiday Baskets.

2. For all the support for the Summer Lunch Bunch. We are now looking into some food for weekends for those who can use it. To do this Ellen attended an orientation meeting at the Food Bank and is looking to partner with the Riverton Elementary School again.

3. To my wonderful Covenant Group--the Membership Committee. You have been so faithful, encouraging and gave guidance willingly.(I personally enjoy your smiles).

4. To all who helped with the Picture taking for the Directory--It is making progress and hopefully will be sent off to be processed when this newsletter goes to print.

5. Last but not least My Mentor Pastor Dixon--yes he is my pastor too. He is kind and encouraging.

The United Methodist Women

will meet: Tuesday, November 12th at 7:00 p.m.

Program: Pledge Service

Hostesses: Barbara Rhodes, Doris Lamkey & Marsha Sutton

We wish to thank everyone for all their help at the chili soup supper. We sold out!

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

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Stewardship and Thanksgiving

In this season of thanksgiving, a sincere 'thank you' is in order to everyone who supports our congregation throughout the year with their attendance, service and regular financial contributions.

For those of you who are interested, the church offers electronic giving options for making donations on a scheduled, automated basis. It's convenient for you and provides much-needed financial consistency for the church. Pick up an authorization form.

