

January 1, 2014

The Oaks



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

SCRATCHINGS FROM THE DIXON PENCIL

In 2014, our church is 140 years old. In honor of that milestone, the theme of this message is 140.

140 is longer than any of us have been alive. It is two lifetimes by the standard of 70 years as a lifespan. The Bible, in Psalm 90:10, says that the span of our lives is 70 years, perhaps 80 if we are strong. Granted, many of us live past 80 these days in this country, but many others die young, like the children we have been trying to save from malaria in Africa with our special fund-raising campaign the last several years. Many parts of the world do not have our wealth of nutrition and healthcare facilities. So 140 is a reasonable figure to equate to two lifetimes. In 140 years, it's as if two generations, our parents and grandparents, have bequeathed us a church to nurture and pass on to generations to come, some not even born yet. May we be faithful to that charge in 2014 and in our lifetimes.

Psalm 140 is a prayer for deliverance from one's enemies. That would remind us that we, too, have enemies. We live in a world of spiritual warfare. There are people and forces out there that oppose our church and what it stands for. The writer of the psalm also feels that challenge and danger. He asks God to deliver him and to deal forcefully with the enemy. By the end of the psalm, he seems to have vented his fears and regained his confidence in God's care. In the last two verses (12-13) he reaffirms God's concern for the needy and the promise of justice. "Surely the righteous shall give thanks to your name; the upright shall live in your presence" are the

closing words. We claim that promise in our 140th year as a church.

140 is also the number of characters permitted, per tweet, on Twitter. Whatever you have to say, keep it brief, would seem to be the rule. That makes for precise thinking, but also leads to great liberties being taken with traditional rules of grammar like spelling and punctuation. Twitter is very big in our culture right now. Someone has actually provided a twitter-ized version of Scripture, called the 140Bible. It reduces every chapter of the Bible to 140 characters. I am not on Twitter myself, nor do I follow any celebrities on it. Reducing my thoughts to 140 characters doesn't seem to work for me. But I will leave you for this time with a version of the Lord's Prayer, reduced to 140 characters (or thereabout). Feel free to count them if you want. Also let me know what you think. Is it cool, sacrilegious, incomprehensible, or what?

dad@hvn,ur spshl.we want wot u want&urth2b like hvn.giv us food&4giv r sins lyk we 4giv uvas.don't test us!save us!bcos we kno ur boss,ur tuf&ur cool 4eva!ok?

Happy New Year! May God bless you and our church of 140 years in 2014.

Pastor Jonathan Dixon

RFUMC Calendar – January 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 New Year's Day	2	3	4
5 Epiphany Sunday 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Adult Bible Class	6	7	8 9:00 AM Quilt- ing; 9-12 CLM at Church; 12:00 PM Membership Committee	9	10	11
12 Covenant Sunday 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Adult Bible Study; 6:30 PM Finance and Admin- istration Meeting	13	14 7:00 PM United Methodist Women	15 9:00 AM Quilt- ing; 9-12 CLM at Church	16	17	18 4-7 PM Beef and Noodle Dinner
19 Human Relations Sun- day 9:30 Worship; 10:30 Adult Bible Study	20	21 6:00 PM United Methodist Men	22 9:00 AM Quilt- ing; 9-12 AM CLM at Church	23	24	25
26 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Adult Bible Study; 2-5 PM District Leader- ship Training	27	28	29 9:00 AM Quilt- ing; 9-12 AM CLM at Church	30	31	

Looking Ahead...

February 8, Church Family Valentine Dinner
 March 1, Chili Carry Out
 March 4, Shrove Tuesday
 March 5, Ash Wednesday
 April 13, Palm Sunday
 April 18, Good Friday
 April 20, Easter Sunday
 May 7, Mother – Child Banquet
 July 8, UMW Picnic
 September 14, UMW Sunday

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: JANUARY 19

January Birthdays

Ron Armintrout	1/2/1951
Cheryl Atkins	1/2/1944
Cheryl Armintrout	1/3/1951
Karen Koger	1/18/1961
Connie Thomas	1/20/1966
Nik Caldwell	1/24/1947
Butch Baker	1/29/1953
Robert Lucas	1/29/1979
Brian Pfeiffer	1/29/1990

January Anniversary

John and Rose Cessna January 2

Ministry Action Plan for 2014

Riverton United Methodist Church

Area 1	Ministry to People	Annual	Monthly	Weekly
11	Transient Help	\$ 100.00	\$ 8.33	\$ 1.92
12	Hospitality and Growth	\$ 500.00	\$ 41.67	\$ 9.62
13	Education	\$ 800.00	\$ 66.67	\$ 15.38
14	VBS	\$ 700.00	\$ 58.33	\$ 13.46
15	Worship	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 125.00	\$ 28.85
16	Music	\$ 250.00	\$ 20.83	\$ 4.81
17	Youth	\$ 100.00	\$ 8.33	\$ 1.92
Total	Area 1 Total	\$ 3,950.00	\$ 329.17	\$ 75.96
Area 2	Ministry of Administration	Annual	Monthly	Weekly
20	Finance Committee	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 145.83	\$ 33.65
21	Office Expense	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 416.67	\$ 96.15
22a	Custodial Supplies	\$ 200.00	\$ 16.67	\$ 3.85
23	Insurance	\$ 4,520.00	\$ 376.67	\$ 86.92
25	Utilities (elec., gas, water, phone)	\$ 9,500.00	\$ 791.67	\$ 182.69
27	Annual Conference Expense	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 83.33	\$ 19.23
28	Capital Improvements	\$ 11,795.76	\$ 982.98	\$ 226.84
Total	Area 2 Total	\$ 33,765.76	\$ 2,813.81	\$ 649.34
Area 3	Ministry of Our Staff	Annual	Monthly	Weekly
30	Clergy Stipend	\$ 49,211.00	\$ 4,100.92	\$ 946.37
30b	Pastors Professional Expense	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 83.33	\$ 19.23
30c	Pastoral Cable, Phone	\$ 1,140.00	\$ 95.00	\$ 21.92
31	Pastors Travel	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 208.33	\$ 48.08
32	Pastors Continuing Education	\$ 500.00	\$ 41.67	\$ 9.62
33	Organist (@ \$60.00 service - 56/year)	\$ 3,360.00	\$ 280.00	\$ 64.62
33a	Guest Organist		\$ -	\$ -
35	FICA * Withholding	\$ 500.00	\$ 41.67	\$ 9.62
36	Nursery Care (@ \$17.50 - 56/year)	\$ 980.00	\$ 81.67	\$ 18.85
37	Guest Speakers	\$ 300.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 5.77
38	Custodial Salary (@ \$40.00 - 52 weeks)	\$ 2,080.00	\$ 173.33	\$ 40.00
39	Workers Compensation	\$ 542.00	\$ 45.17	\$ 10.42
Total	Area 3 Total	\$ 62,113.00	\$ 5,176.08	\$ 1,194.48
Area 4	Connectional Ministry	Annual	Monthly	Weekly
40	Pension / Health Benefits	\$ 9,318.83	\$ 776.57	\$ 179.21
41	Clergy Support and Administration	\$ 9,792.00	\$ 816.00	\$ 188.31
42	Benevolences / Connectional Ministries	\$ 5,844.00	\$ 487.00	\$ 112.38
44	Medical Insurance	\$ 17,520.00	\$ 1,460.00	\$ 336.92
45	Missionary Support (Connie Wieck in China)	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 83.33	\$ 19.23
Total	Area 4 Total	\$ 43,474.83	\$ 3,622.90	\$ 836.05
Total	Summary of All Areas	Annual	Monthly	Weekly
Area 1	Ministry to People	\$ 3,950.00	\$ 329.17	\$ 75.96
Area 2	Ministry of Administration	\$ 33,765.76	\$ 2,813.81	\$ 649.34
Area 3	Ministry of Our Staff	\$ 62,113.00	\$ 5,176.08	\$ 1,194.48
Area 4	Connectional Ministry	\$ 43,474.83	\$ 3,622.90	\$ 836.05
Total	Total	\$ 143,303.59	\$ 11,941.97	\$ 2,755.84

2014 CHURCH OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Trustees: Ron Armintrout, Nik Caldwell, Tom Pantier [2016]

Continuing Members: Mel Allison, Harold Shepherdson, George Skaggs [2015]
Judy McCullough, Lori Payne-Mullett, Don Sutton [2014]

Staff/Parish Relations: Cheryl Allison, Nik Caldwell, Barb Lucas [2016]

Continuing Members: Rick Carr, Mary Pugh, Marsha Sutton [2015]
Erin Martincic, Carly Shank, George Skaggs [2014]
Ex Officio: Grace Carriker, Jeri Sucech

Nominations: Sharon Caldwell, Nancy Hermes, Sharon Stroisch [2016] [Jonathan Dixon]

Continuing Members: Lisa Dungey, Janet Gowin, Barbara Rhodes [2015]
Rick Carr, Hope McKenzie, Don Sutton [2014]

Worship: Sharon Caldwell, Ellen Dixon, Carly Shank, Patsy Skaggs

Lay Minister's Covenant Group: Sharon Caldwell, Rose Hughes, Marsha Sutton [Ellen Dixon]

Hospitality: Sharon Caldwell, Grace Carriker, Rose Hughes, Kathy Jones, Karen Koger,
Lori Payne-Mullett, Barbara Rhodes, Sharon Stroisch

Offering Counters: Sharon Caldwell, Rick Carr, John Martincic, Tom Pantier

Education: Grace Carriker, Nadine Mackenzie (Chair), Hope McKenzie (VBS)

Media: Ron Armintrout, Kim Beckey, Nik Caldwell, Andrew Fitzpatrick, Tom Pantier, Carly Shank

Prayer: Ellen Dixon, Dot Hendricks, Barbara Lucas, Lori Payne-Mullett, David and Cheryl Beckner

Stewardship: Ron Armintrout, Grace Carriker, Ellen Dixon, Rose Hughes, Tom Pantier,
Jeri Sucech

Special Events Coordinator: Melissa Pantier

Treasurer: Debbie Stoneburner

Financial Secretary: Tom Pantier

Lay Leader: Grace Carriker

Lay Member of Annual Conference: Jeri Sucech;
Alternate: Ellen Dixon

Bible Study

Ellen is looking into having a Bible Study from a book by Joyce Meyer, *God is Not Mad at You*. There would be a daytime study and a night time study so all can participate. She would like some feedback about this idea. Call her at 691-7676 or check in with her at church. This would be for any gender, age, or knowledge level.



Silent Auction, Dinner, Concert

Saturday, February 8, 6:00 p.m.

Everyone is invited to the Riverton United Methodist Church fellowship hall on Saturday, Feb. 8, at 6:00 p.m. for a three-course fundraising dinner and silent auction, with music provided by singer-guitarist Tim Garman.

We hold this annual dinner as a fundraiser for our long-term planning purposes. The three-course dinner is guaranteed to be delicious!

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 restaurants and stores; lots of gift baskets for women, men, and kids; jewelry; toys; and many more items!!

There is no ticket price for the dinner; donations are accepted. Space is limited, and this event is very well-attended. Please place your **reservation** with Melissa Pantier at 629-7248 or 741-8172 or on Facebook (or on the sign-up sheet at church) by February 1.

This event has gained a reputation as a *great* time of music, fellowship and friendship. (You don't have to bid on items to enjoy this event. It is a lot of fun and a great way to meet and get acquainted with others in the church!) Please bring your whole family.

Happy New Year

Ellen Dixon is tipping her hats to you all.

#1 hat thanks you as your pastor's wife for caring for my husband so well. Thanks for coming to the Christmas OPEN HOUSE --it is always such a joy for me. Thanks for letting me worship with my church family. I am not merely the Pastor's wife but a fellow worshipper and you let me do that with you. Thanks.

#2 hat is your CLM--Thanks for enjoying the JOY of the Christmas Story and explore who these people are that birthed, nurtured and met our Savior. Of course my Christmas wish is for you to meet Him also. He is the the JOY of this Advent. Thanks.

#3 hat is the many groups in our church that I get to participate in. Choir, UMW and taking part in the different aspects of the morning worship whether that be liturgist, usher or greeter; also the wonderful Adult Sunday School class. You all teach me, encourage me and love me. Thanks.

The United Methodist Women

Will meet January 14 at 7:00 p.m.

Program: Prayer and Self Denial
Grace Carriker

Hostesses: JoAnna Eyer & Ellen Dixon

All women of the Church are welcome

Riverton First United Methodist
429 East Lincoln
Riverton, IL 62561



Address Correction Requested

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E-MAIL: rvtnumc@sbcglobal.net
WEBSITE: www.rivertonfirstumc.org

Connect with Riverton First United Methodist

NEWSLETTER: Are you still receiving this newsletter in print? Consider doing something for the environment in 2014 and ask to be added to our email newsletter list. We will start sending you the newsletter over email rather than through the mail. Send an email to rvtnumc@sbcglobal.net and identify yourself and the email address you would like us to use for the newsletter.

WEBSITE: If you haven't visited our website for awhile, browse to www.rivertonfirstumc.org.

FACEBOOK: Search for Riverton United Methodist Church for very up-to-date photos, videos, and more. Thanks to some of our members for their updates and postings.

A festive graphic with the words "Happy New Year" in a large, blue, 3D-style font. The text is surrounded by small, colorful confetti and streamers in shades of red, green, and blue, creating a celebratory atmosphere.

Happy New Year