



THE OAKS



Riverton First United Methodist Church

JANUARY 1, 2009

NINE IDEAS FOR 2009



As we begin a new year I want to share some thoughts about ways to approach it. The first three ideas are from John Wesley's three basic rules for Christian living. Ideas four through eight are from a United Methodist bishop, Robert Schnase, in his book, *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*. The final idea is from my personal life verse in the Bible. You will be hearing more about these ideas on Sundays this year, but here is a preview.

- 1. Do no harm** In 2009, I will think about my actions and their consequences, for others as well as myself. I will remember the world in which I live, and consume in ways that leave resources for my children's children for as many generations as God allows.
- 2. Do good** I will do that which is morally right., even when no one is looking. I will be positive, helpful and considerate to others, whether they are friends, family, strangers or even people who oppose or dislike me for any reason.
- 3. Love God** Wesley's way of stating this rule was more like "attend to the means of grace." By that he meant that we should avail ourselves of the means God has given us to acquire and grow in his grace. Those means include attending worship, taking communion, Bible reading, prayer and fellowship with other believers. These are the things that help us stay in love with God.
- 4. Practice hospitality** This involves inviting, welcoming and caring for strangers. Of course as we do that they will not remain strangers. They will become one with

us to continue the chain of reaching out to others who need God's love.

- 5. Worship passionately** I will sing and pray and preach and listen like I mean it! I will be focused and receptive to the work the Holy Spirit in and through me.
- 6. Develop faith intentionally** I will not be passive, letting circumstances determine my Christian growth. I will actively seek to learn lessons that God will teach me, and consciously apply them to my daily actions in life.
- 7. Take risks in mission and service** I will try new things in serving God and fulfilling his purpose in my life. I will not let shyness, embarrassment or criticism, nor fear of them, hold me back when God is nudging me to action.
- 8. Give generously** I will be a faithful steward of the gifts God gives me. I will give systematically from my income, using the biblical standard of the tithe as a guideline. I will also give of my time and talents as God opens doors. And I will do it cheerfully.
- 9. Trust God more than self** My life verse(s) is Proverbs 3:4-5. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge God, and he will direct your paths." I cannot do any of the above alone. But by God's grace working within me, "I can do all things through God who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13).

Happy New Year

Pastor Jonathan Dixon

Riverton United Methodist Women

Ladies,

You are invited to the January United Methodist Women's meeting on Tuesday evening the 13th at 7PM. Grace will introduce us to a Mission Project that our conference UMW is supporting. This is a time to support this project and so an offering will be taken.

The hostesses for the evening are Jeri and Evelyn.

This meeting is held in the Fellow-Ship hall in the First United Methodist Church in Riverton. Call 629-9270 for information or if you need a ride.

THANKS—The Dixons wish to be sure that all of the people of our church hear how very thankful we are to be in this church. We also thank you for the Christmas gift you so graciously gave us. It was thoughtful and kind.

We will use it for a special time for our family. Thanks again! Jonathan and Ellen Dixon

—ANNOUNCING—

The Christian Education Department has the theme of "LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR" for the activities of these classes and those who attend these classes.

If you know of anyone that could be a part of this program and its classes please give their names and addresses to Barb Lucas or Ellen Dixon so we can send them an invitation.



2009 OFFICERS FOR RIVERTON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

<p>Church Council</p> <p>Jeri Sucech*</p> <p>Ellen Dixon</p> <p>Debbie Stoneburner</p> <p>Rose Hughes</p> <p>Grace Carriker</p> <p>Tom Pantier</p> <p>Evelyn Gandy</p> <p>Barb Lucas</p> <p>Ron Armintrout</p>	<p>Education Team</p> <p>Ellen Dixon*</p> <p>Barb Lucas</p> <p>Samantha Sloman</p> <p>Karen Koger</p> <p>Mary Dial</p> <p>Hope McKenzie</p> <p>Grace Carriker</p> <p>Debbie Stoneburner</p> <p>Blair Stoneburner</p> <p>Karen Mackenzie</p> <p>Nadine Mackenzie</p>	<p>Hospitality & Growth</p> <p>Rose Hughes</p> <p>Karen Brown</p> <p>Grace Carriker</p> <p>Carly Shank</p> <p>Kathy Jones</p> <p>Karen Koger</p> <p>Mary Dial</p> <p>Lori Payne-Mullett</p>	<p>Multi-Media</p> <p>Kim Beckey</p> <p>Tom Pantier</p> <p>Ron Armintrout</p> <p>Nik Caldwell</p> <p>Blair Stoneburner</p> <p>Lauren Logsdon</p> <p>Carly Shank</p> <p>Sharon Caldwell</p>	<p>Prayer Committee</p> <p>Barb Lucas</p> <p>Dot Hendricks</p> <p>Les Hendricks</p> <p>Ellen Dixon</p>
<p>Trustees</p> <p>Ron Armintrout</p> <p>Tom Pantier</p> <p>Nik Caldwell</p> <p>Ernie Grieme</p> <p>George Skaggs</p> <p>Mike Lucas</p> <p>Evelyn Gandy*</p> <p>Judy McCullough</p> <p>Brett Pearson</p>	<p>Staff-Parish Relations</p> <p>Sharon Caldwell</p> <p>David Bumgardner*</p> <p>Mel Allison</p> <p>Blair Stoneburner</p> <p>Brian Sutherland</p> <p>Jo Anna Eyer</p> <p>Tim Sexton</p> <p>Mary Dial</p>	<p>Lay Members of Annual Conference</p> <p>Jeri Sucech</p> <p>Ellen Dixon (alternate)</p>	<p>Worship</p> <p>Patsy Skaggs*</p> <p>Grace Carriker</p> <p>Ellen Dixon</p> <p>Sharon Caldwell</p> <p>Carly Shank</p> <p>Barb Lucas</p> <p>Roberta Bernahl</p> <p>Nadine Springer</p> <p>Nadine Mackenzie</p>	<p>Youth Team</p> <p>Mary Dial</p> <p>Carrie Pearson</p>
<p>Finance Committee</p> <p>Evelyn Gandy</p> <p>Jeri Sucech</p> <p>Tom Pantier*</p> <p>Judy McCullough</p> <p>Barb Lucas</p> <p>Debbie Stoneburner</p> <p>Roberta Bernahl</p>	<p>Offering Counters</p> <p>Sharon Caldwell</p> <p>Karen Brown</p> <p>Jeri Sucech</p>	<p>Lay Leadership</p> <p>Jim Bernahl</p> <p>Nancy Daniels</p> <p>Ron Atkins</p> <p>Mike Lucas</p> <p>Ellen Dixon</p> <p>Barb Rhodes</p> <p>Karen Brown</p> <p>Don Sutton</p> <p>Ron Armintrout</p> <p>Mike Lucas</p> <p>Jonathan Dixon*</p>	<p>Membership</p> <p>Rose Hughes</p> <p>Roberta Bernahl</p> <p>Ellen Dixon</p> <p>Nadine Mackenzie</p> <p>Harriet Beckey</p>	<p>Trustees Treasurer</p> <p>Judy McCullough</p>
<p>Church Treasurer</p> <p>Debbie Stoneburner</p>	<p>Lay Leader</p> <p>Barb Lucas</p>	<p>Financial Secretary</p> <p>Tom Pantier</p>	<p>Food Pantry Liaison</p> <p>Evelyn Gandy</p>	<p>Nursery Facilities</p> <p>Jeri Sucech*</p> <p>Mary Dial</p> <p>Special Events & Fund Raising</p> <p>Melissa Pantier</p> <p>UMM President</p> <p>Ron Armintrout</p> <p>UMW President</p> <p>Rose Hughes</p>
<p>*Committee Chair</p>				

SCRIP NEWS



During the holidays the congregation put to use the SCRIP Program in a wonderful way. The holiday season seemed to be too hectic this year....having a late Thanksgiving Day, a nasty downturn in our economy, the politics of Illinois and all the usual festivities that precede the day of Jesus Christ's Birthday. It became easy for us to purchase gift cards for our friends and family members where possible.

Because of the unusual high purchase of these SCRIP gift cards during the holiday season, we accumulated the extra money and was able to take that money to pay an additional **\$1,500.00** on the principle of our church's loan.

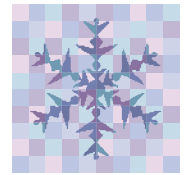
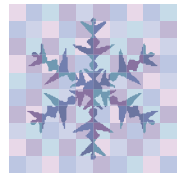
!!!CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF YOU!!!

Now for those who are not familiar with this SCRIP Program.....You will find enclosed an order sheet for gift cards from many local stores in our area. This is how it works:

On the first and third Sunday of each month, an order sheet is inserted in the bulletin. You select the cards you can use, add

2009 SCRIP CALENDAR	
SCRIP - ORDER DAY	SCRIP - PICK-UP DAY
January 4, 2009	January 11, 2009
February 1, 2009	February 8, 2009
February 15, 2009	February 22, 2009
March 1, 2009	March 8, 2009
March 15, 2009	March 22, 2009
April 5, 2009	April 12, 2009
April 19, 2009	April 26, 2009
May 3, 2009	May 10, 2009
May 17, 2009	May 24, 2009
June 7, 2009	June 14, 2009
June 21, 2009	June 28, 2009
July 5, 2009	July 12, 2009
July 19, 2009	July 26, 2009
August 2, 2009	August 9, 2009
August 16, 2009	August 23, 2009
September 6, 2009	September 13, 2009
September 20, 2009	September 27, 2009
October 4, 2009	October 11, 2009
October 18, 2009	October 25, 2009
November 1, 2009	November 8, 2009
November 15, 2009	November 22, 2009
November 29, 2009	December 6, 2009
December 6, 2009	December 13, 2009
December 13, 2009	December 20, 2009
January 3, 2010	January 10, 2010

JANUARY



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 HAPPY NEW YEAR	2	3
4 Epiphany Sunday 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m., Retiring of the Greens 6:30 Youth Group	5 7 p.m. Board of Trustees	6	7	8	9	10 7:30 a.m. United Methodist Men's Breakfast
11 9:30 Worship, In- stallation of UMW Officers during Worship 6:30 p.m. Finance Committee 7:15 p.m. Adminis- trative Council	12	13 7 p.m. United Meth- odist Women's Meeting	14 7 p.m. Choir Re- sumes	15	16	17
18 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 Coffee Fellow- ship after Worship 6:30 Youth Group	19 6:30 p.m. United Methodist Men's Kick-Off Event	20	21 6 p.m. Hospitality and Growth Com- mittee 7 p.m. Choir Practice Resumes	22	23	24 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Leadership Devel- opment Seminar at Decatur First UMC
25 9:30 a.m. Worship	26	27	28 7 p.m. Choir Practice	29	30	31



Riverton United Methodist Church Proposed Budget for 2009

Area 1	Ministry to People	Annual	Monthly	Weekly
11	Transient Help	\$ 100.00	\$ 8.33	\$ 1.92
12	Hospitality and Growth	\$ 650.00	\$ 54.17	\$ 12.50
13	Education	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 125.00	\$ 28.85
15	Worship	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 104.17	\$ 24.04
16	Music	\$ 500.00	\$ 41.67	\$ 9.62
17	Youth	\$ 300.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 5.77
Total	Area 1 Total	\$ 4,300.00	\$ 358.33	\$ 82.69
Area 2	Ministry of Administration	Annual	Monthly	Weekly
20	Finance Committee	\$ 100.00	\$ 8.33	\$ 1.92
21	Office Expense	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 125.00	\$ 28.85
22a	Custodial Supplies	\$ 200.00	\$ 16.67	\$ 3.85
23	Insurance	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 333.33	\$ 76.92
25	Utilities (elec., gas, water, phone)	\$ 8,800.00	\$ 733.33	\$ 169.23
25a	Utility Payback (\$3,600.00 total)	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 23.08
27	Annual Conference Expense	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 83.33	\$ 19.23
28	Capital Improvements	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 230.77
Total	Area 2 Total	\$ 28,800.00	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 553.85
Area 3	Ministry of Our Staff	Annual	Monthly	Weekly
30	Clergy Stipend	\$ 45,150.00	\$ 3,762.50	\$ 868.27
30b	Pastors Professional Expense	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 83.33	\$ 19.23
30c	Pastoral Cable, Phone	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 83.33	\$ 19.23
31	Pastors Travel	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 208.33	\$ 48.08
32	Pastors Continuing Education	\$ 500.00	\$ 41.67	\$ 9.62
33	Organist (@ \$50.00 service - 56 yr.)	\$ 2,800.00	\$ 233.33	\$ 53.85
33a	Guest Organist		\$ -	\$ -
34	Accompanist (@30.00 service- 48 yr.)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
35	FICA * Withholding	\$ 400.00	\$ 33.33	\$ 7.69
36	Nursery Care (@ \$10.00 service)	\$ 520.00	\$ 43.33	\$ 10.00
37	Guest Speakers	\$ 300.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 5.77
38	Custodial Salary (@ \$130.00 / month)	\$ 1,560.00	\$ 130.00	\$ 30.00
39	Workers Compensation	\$ 280.00	\$ 23.33	\$ 5.38
Total	Area 3 Total	\$ 56,010.00	\$ 4,667.50	\$ 1,077.12
Area 4	Connectional Ministry	Annual	Monthly	Weekly
40	Pension / Health Benefits	\$ 3,387.00	\$ 282.25	\$ 65.13
41	Clergy Support and Administration	\$ 11,028.00	\$ 919.00	\$ 212.08
42	Benevolences / Connectional	\$ 5,208.00	\$ 434.00	\$ 100.15
44	Medical Insurance	\$ 16,500.00	\$ 1,375.00	\$ 317.31
45	Missionary Support	\$ 600.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 11.54
Total	Area 4 Total	\$ 36,723.00	\$ 3,060.25	\$ 706.21
Total	Summary of All Areas	Annual	Monthly	Weekly
Area 1	Ministry to People	\$ 4,300.00	\$ 358.33	\$ 82.69
Area 2	Ministry of Administration	\$ 28,800.00	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 553.85
Area 3	Ministry of Our Staff	\$ 56,010.00	\$ 4,667.50	\$ 1,077.12
Area 4	Connectional Ministry	\$ 36,723.00	\$ 3,060.25	\$ 706.21
Total	Total	\$ 125,833.00	\$ 10,486.08	\$ 2,419.87



RIVERTON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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THE OAKS

Deadline for next issue is
Sunday, **January 21, 2008**

E-mail articles to
newsletter@rivertonfirstumc.org



UPCOMING EVENTS

- †November 27: Thanksgiving Day
- †November 29, 9:00 AM: Hanging of the Greens (Decorating for Christmas)
- †November 30, 9:30 AM: First Sunday of Advent
- †December 7, 9:30 AM: Second Sunday of Advent; Mr. Ken Runkle, Guest Speaker, 1:00 to 4:00 pm: Eric Binion Memorial
- †December 9, 6:30 PM United Methodist Women Christmas Potluck
- †December 10, 7:00 PM Choir Practice
- †December 13, 7:30 AM: United Methodist Men
- †December 14, 9:30 AM: Third Sunday of Advent
- †December 14, 7:00 PM: Christmas Musical Program
- †December 20, 6-8 PM: Parsonage Open House
- †December 21, 9:30 AM: Christmas Sunday; 5 PM, Party at Inner City Mission 6:00 PM Youth Group
- †December 24, 10:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Vespers
- †December 25: Christmas Day
- †December 28, 10:30 AM: Retiring of the Green
- †February 24: Shrove Tuesday
- †February 25: Ash Wednesday (Lent Begins)
- †April 5: Palm Sunday
- †April 10: Good Friday

