



THE OAKS



Riverton First United Methodist Church

JULY 1, 2009

Pastor's Letter



July is a month to celebrate freedom. All over the United States, picnics, programs and parades are held on or around July 4th to observe Independence Day. It is not just in this country either. July 1 is Canada Day, with celebrations and observances parallel to ours on the 4th. July 14 is Bastille Day, observed in France in much the same way as well.

Technically, these days should probably be called something like Declaration Day. In each case the day designated for celebrating was just the beginning of a long process that eventually produced a free and independent country. In United States, July 4, 1776 was the day the Declaration of Independence was signed by members of the Continental Congress in Philadelphia. But real independence came only after seven years of war with England. Likewise, July 1 commemorates an act of Parliament in 1867 that was just one step in a series of changes that resulted in an independent Canada as we know it. In France, July 14, 1789 was the day that rebels stormed the fortress-prison Bastille. It was only the beginning of the long, bloody French Revolution.

As we celebrate freedom, we see that it entails two distinct elements, a declaration and a process. The process is often a difficult struggle. And as it is with political freedom, so it is with spiritual freedom. There is a point of declaration, and an ongoing process.

The declaration that is the beginning of spiritual freedom is unlike its political counterpart in that it is an

act of surrender rather than one of rebellion, of dependence rather than independence. We are already born and live naturally in a state of rebellion against God and godliness. We are enslaved by the lure, the habits and the consequences of sin. But we find freedom from sin and guilt by surrendering our lives to God, by asking and receiving forgiveness through God's amazing grace.

The process of living in freedom is still a challenge. It doesn't have to be as bitter as a Revolutionary War. Nevertheless it is a struggle. We encounter temptations and we must overcome them. We may even suffer setbacks and lapses, but can continue to work at living in forgiveness and fellowship with God.

In Galatians 5:1 we read, "For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery." Later, in verse 13, we are "called to freedom," but warned not to use our "freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence." Rather, we are to "live by the Spirit (v.16)"

As you celebrate your political freedom this month, remember to declare your *dependence* upon God, and live free in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Pastor Jonathan Dixon



From the Staff-Parish Committee

Dr. Rev Jonathan Dixon has been appointed by the conference to the Riverton United Methodist Church for another year. The committee is very thankful and appreciates the hard work and leadership that Rev Dixon has provided in the past and is looking forward to another year working together.


HAPPY ANNIVERSARY


Jeff & Karen Koger	July 2, 1983
Bill & Virginia Kleban	July 3, 1948
Ralph & Carly Shank	July 6, 2001
Charles & Earlene Freeman	July 11, 1942
J. & Doris Davis	July 31, 1948

The JULY United Methodist Women



PICNIC

Picnic

picnic

PICNIC



!!!!!! It is our Annual July picnic !!!!!

It starts earlier than usual — 6:00 PM

This is a potluck with the meat, drinks
and tableware furnished.

Hostesses are - Rose Hughes and Marge Todd

See you in the Fellowship Hall

Tuesday July 14th

**If you have any questions contact Ellen at gramto6@sbcglobal.net or call
her at 691-7676.**

P.S. there are several books available through the UMW and they would love to have you participate in the reading program even if you are not an official member of the UMW. Check it out or contact Cheryl Beckner or Bobbie Sexton.

Forget when an event is happening? Check the OAKS

Online at www.rivertonfirstumc.org





- ◆ To the United Methodist Men for giving our Christian Education Staff a vacation time.
- ◆ To the many people who did many actions to make the Vacation Bible School such a good me for staff and kids!!
- ◆ For those who volunteer weekly to do the ushering, children’s moments, greeters, etc. regularly.
- ◆ To those who help with mowing the lawn at the Church.
- ◆ Thanks to Ron A. for “mugging” our newcomers.
- ◆ The flowerbeds look very nice, George, and I know that Melissa helps some too.
- ◆ Thanks to all who nurture and support others in the congregation.

SCRIP NEWS



???HOW DOES THE PROGRAM WORK???

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 the total, write a check for the face value of the cards, and give the order sheet and check/money to Doris Lamkey. The order is placed that evening. The cards arrive later that week, sorted with the order sheets (to be sure that each order is entirely complete), given to you the following Sunday, to be used by you for the full face value of the gift card. In the meantime, the store you bought a gift card for, immediately donates a percentage directly to our church. There is no cost to you and the church makes a profit to be applied directly to the principal of the loan. Should you have any questions about this program, please feel free to contact Judy McCullough. We look forward to your SCRIP order as soon as possible.

SCRIP CALENDAR

SCRIP - ORDER DAY	SCRIP - PICK-UP DAY
July 5, 2009	July 12, 2009
July 19, 2009	July 26, 2009
August 2, 2009	August 9, 2009
August 16, 2009	August 23, 2009

Happy Birthday

- Brown, Karen July 2
- Jones, Kathy July 6
- Lucas, Barb July 6
- Hendricks, Dorothy July 7
- Lamkey, Doris July 10
- Sloman, Madalyn July 10
- Binion, Shawn July 12
- Tester, Casey July 12
- Walters, Abigail July 13
- Scales, Tracy July 15
- Atkins, Ron July 16
- Beattie, Lyndsey July 20
- Freeman, Earlene July 21
- Sutherland, David July 27
- Upton, Pat July 28

Happy Birthday



RIVERTON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

429 East Lincoln Street
PO Box 440
Riverton, IL 62561

Phone: (217) 629-9721
Email: rvtnumc@sbcglobal.net

U.S. Postage
PAID
Non-Profit Org
Permit #4
Riverton, IL
62561

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.RIVERTONFIRSTUMC.ORG



THE OAKS

Deadline for next issue is
Sunday, **July 19, 2009**
E-mail articles to
newsletter@rivertonfirstumc.org



Looking Ahead

- July 4th Independence Day
- September 6, Outdoor Worship
- September 13 United Methodist Women Sunday
- October 24 Chili Supper
- October 31 Trunk-er Treat
- November 8 United Methodist Men Sunday
- November 15, 12 Noon, Charge Conference
- November 22 Community Thanksgiving Service

SCRIP CALENDAR

SCRIP - ORDER DAY	SCRIP - PICK-UP DAY
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

