



THE OAKS



Riverton First United Methodist Church

SEPTEMBER 1, 2009

Pastor's Letter

About a month ago I received an invitation from a correspondent with Springfield's newspaper, *The State Journal-Register*, to submit a few thoughts for a story he intends to do in the paper. He is gathering thoughts from a number of pastors and religious leaders for the piece, so my contribution would be just one small part of his larger article. (He suggested a limit of 50 words or so—which is very hard for a professional talker such as I.) The theme of his final article will be something like scriptures and how they affect persons' lives. I have no knowledge how many other responses he received, or how quickly he intends to work on it, so I have no idea when or if my words will actually appear in print. It may already be out by the time you read this, or it may still be gestating. (Or I may have been edited out completely.)

The correspondent I referred to above is Steven Spearie. He often writes on religious themes for the paper, especially feature stories for the weekend editions. He also happens to be an old friend of mine. We worked together at MacMurray College some years ago. The question he asked me was to cite my favorite passage from one of the classic texts of one of the world's religions. I chose Christianity, of course, and quoted a passage from the Old Testament, Proverbs 3:5-6. *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge God, and He will direct your paths.* (That rendition is my own, corresponding quite closely to the *New King James Version*.)

Since I only was allowed 50 words or so before, I am taking this opportunity to expand my thoughts on that text a little. I took this scripture as my "life



verse" (even though it is technically two verses, not just one) several decades ago. I wanted my trajectory of my life to be that of God's choosing, not simply my own. I have generally considered myself to be an intelligent enough person with fairly good common sense, but I was also aware of some of my own shortcomings, as most of us are. So I wanted more. I wanted God's best

in my life. As I have tried to trust in God completely instead of trusting my own instincts or understanding, I have found the formula to work. I have lived out a variety of experiences, such as career changes and serious illnesses, not to mention marriage, family and grand-parenting. And God has directed my paths. Through all the changes and stages of my life I have found in each new situation that experiences in the previous years have prepared me for the present moment. That is not to say everything has gone perfectly, or that I have made no mistakes, because I am still very human. But to the extent that I have trusted "with all my heart" instead of leaning on my "own understanding," I have known God's blessing and grace in abundance.

My life has taken twists and turns, as most lives do. But I have experienced God's presence through it all. My prayer in ministry and in life is to study, live, preach and teach the Christian principles of the Old and New Testaments. This is the way in which God has directed my paths, and in which I am delighted to sojourn. I hope and trust the same for you, my hearers and readers.

Pastor Jonathan Dixon



Forget when an event is happening? Check the OAKS Online at www.rivertonfirstumc.org



The September **United Methodist Women**

Betty Peel is the program leader with the Topic of
FOOD AND FAITH.

Grace Carriker, Ellen Dixon, Eileen Kendle and Darlene Schermerhorn, are the Hostesses for the fellowship time after the program.

Also, please bring Diapers and baby wipes for the Lessie Bates Davis' Neighborhood House and /or Acne Medicine, gift cards from Wal-Mart, McDonald'S OR Subway, Campbell's UPC's and Box Tops for Education for Cunningham to this meeting so they can be packed to take to the District Meeting on the 22nd of September in Sherman.



See you in the **Fellowship** Hall
Tuesday September 8th—7:00

If you have any questions contact Ellen at gramto6@sbcglobal.net or call her at 629-9270.



P.S. There are still bags of pecans—yes—those delicious pecans we sell each year—For Sale.

Riverton
United
Methodist
Women

The UMW Fall meeting for the entire district is scheduled for September 22 in Sherman UM church from 9-12. Hear how “one person CAN make a difference in many areas” by speaker Helen Sheperd.



TRUSTEE NEWS

We wish to thank the Village of Riverton for the removal of the LARGE tree that had fallen on the park side of the fence. This tree presented a hazard to the property as well as to people. The Village removed it as soon as the weather permitted.

As many of you are aware.....the ceiling in the sanctuary developed problems recently. Many bids were obtained for many avenues of repairs. We contracted with Fritsch & Co. to remove the old plaster in four areas and clean up that plaster dust mess. It was then decided to have Fritsch's also do the replastering. They did an excellent job, but it did create a plaster dust mess. Five church ladies came in on a Saturday morning and thoroughly cleaned the sanctuary. Some primer paint has been applied to the newly plastered areas on the ceiling; the remainder of the new plaster will be primed in the near future. The trustees are in the process of seeing what funds are available in order to determine exactly how much of the sanctuary will be freshly painted. In the meantime, we are grateful for the patience of the congregation through this repair project.

Before the plaster project was started, several of the trustee men went into the attic and scoured the underside of the roof to be certain that there will not be future problems. When they finished going over the complete underside of the roof, they ventured outside and on top of the church roof to be certain there would not be problems. Also during the heavy rain on August 17, one trustee went into the attic to watch for any possible "mystery" leaks. At that time, two spots did show some moisture. So the repair person has been contacted and he will reassess the areas, make changes at those points and hopefully avoid future leaks.

With the rooflines of our beautiful building, we are aware that there will always be possibilities of leaks. The trustees need to be more diligent in watching the problem areas. It has always been one of the bi-annual jobs to clean out the gutters. It is a necessary job with all the huge oak and old trees on the property. God blessed us with a gorgeous church yard.....and with that in mind, have you noticed that several of the old trees have large dead branches in them? If anyone would like to remove them, let us know!

Financial Checkup

A note from the Finance Committee

The current financial health is fairly good. We have managed to pay the vast majority of our bills. We have made payroll every week, paid our taxes, insurance and kept the lights and heat on. However, we have not been so good with our conference obligations. At the end of July, we were \$5,412.00 behind which represents four months.

In addition, we have had a problem with the ceiling plaster in the sanctuary. The ceiling has been repaired and through several generous gifts, we have been able to pay for the demolition and repair, which is wonderful. The next step is re-painting in the sanctuary. Through gifts received in memorial of Alice Broughton, we will be able to pay for the majority of the painting with the rest being completed by the Trustees and Methodist men.

We have also received gifts that will help reduce the outstanding balance of our conference obligations to \$1,812.00. We sincerely thank everyone for their continued support and special gifts. Without your dedication, increases in regular tithing and the special gifts, we would not have been able to make the repairs as quickly, while reducing our conference obligations as well.

We have several other projects coming up that will require additional support. Our parking lot will need to be sealed next year. This will cost an estimated \$5,000.00. The United Methodist Women, through their chili and soup dinner has provided approximately half of that amount. We will need to raise the addition \$2,500 to \$3,000 to cover the re-sealing cost. The basement at the parsonage has a water problem which renders the basement unfit for daily living and does present issues related to moisture. A drainage system, such as a French drain, needs to be installed around the outside perimeter of the parsonage. Preliminary cost estimates are approximately \$10,000.00. We will continue to need both regular and special gifts.

We have an annual budget of \$125,833.00 which is a weekly average of \$2,419.87 just to cover budgeted items. Of course during the course of the year we get an occasional surprise, such as a miss-billing from the village of Riverton over the last 3 years of \$3,600.00 which we continue to pay as we are able.

Our current status as of August 23th, 2009 is as follows:

Amount of tithes designated to our budget	\$75,846.01
Our budget need as of August 23 rd , 2009	\$82,275.88
Amount behind our budget need	<\$ 6,429.57>

Tom Pantier, for the Finance Committee

September 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7:00 PM, Staff-Parish Relations Committee	2 7:00 PM, Choir Practice	3	4	5
6 Regular Schedule, OUTDOOR WORSHIP 11:30 AM Youth Group	7	8 7:00 PM, United Methodist Women	9 7:00 PM, Choir Practice	10	11 Pastor Dixon out of State	12 Pastor Dixon out of State 7:30 AM, United Methodist Men
13 Pastor Dixon out of State Regular Schedule, UNITED METHODIST WOMEN SUNDAY Ms. Nadine Mackenzie, Special Speaker	14	15	16 7:00 PM, Choir Practice	17	18	19
20 Regular Schedule, NEWS DEADLINE 11:30 AM Youth Group 5:00 PM Inner City Mission	21 6:30 PM Finance Committee 7:15 PM Administrative Council	22	23 7:00 PM Choir Practice	24	25 Riverfest	26 Riverfest
27 Riverfest Special Schedule 10:30 AM COMMUNITY WORSHIP at Riverfest Pastor Dixon Speaking	28	29	30 7:00 PM Choir Practice			



The New Sunday School Classes were put in place On August 30th.

My thanks to the teachers for these classes:

Karen and Hope — Young Sprouts

In the nursery room

Debbie and Karen K. — Church Kids

In the center part of the fellowship Hall

Youth Inc. — Carrie and Nadine

In the Upper Room

Splat — Mary

In the kitchen

The Scripture Seekers — Grace

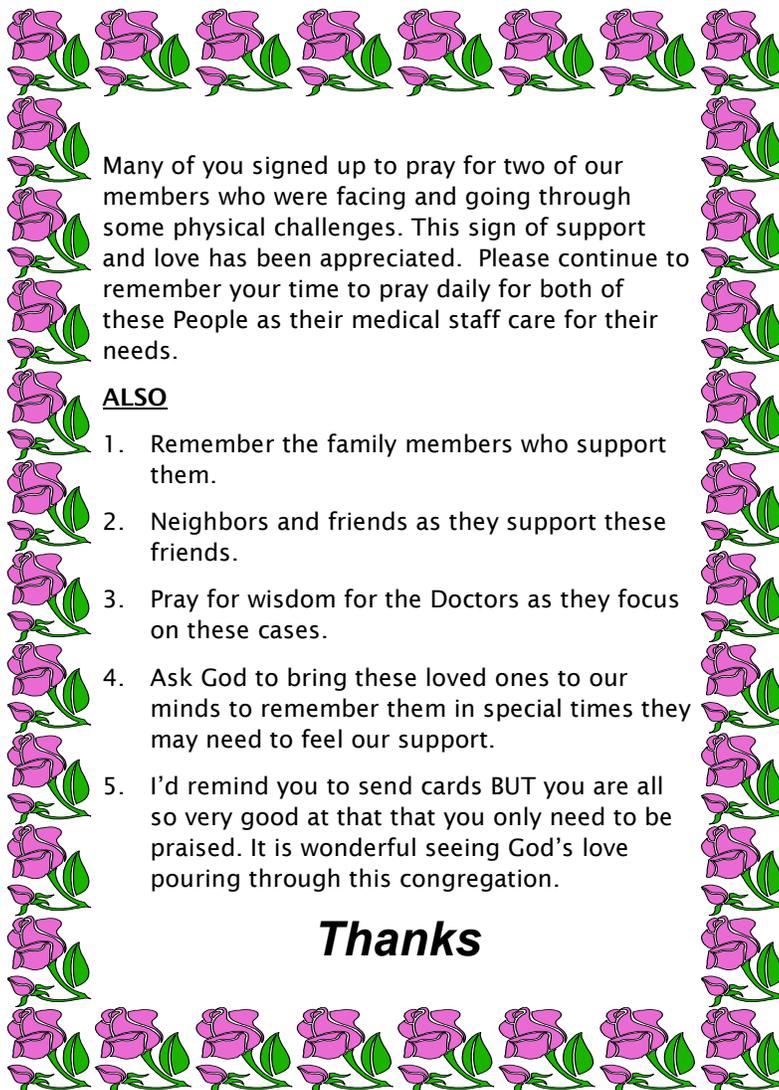
In the north end of the Denkert Room

Carly continues to teach some music to the youngest two classes from 11:20- 11:30 and then Parents/Family can pick up their students as they wait in the back pew in the Sanctuary.

The 2009 Theme of "Love Your Neighbor" is key in inviting our associates to a Sunday School Class to grow in knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Happy Birthday

Koger, Matt	September 1
Stoneburner, Debbie	September 2
Blakley, Richard	September 4
Dixon, Jonathan	September 11
Roseberry, Josephine	September 11
Rusciolelli, James	September 17
Hughes, Derek	September 21
Lewis, Richard	September 21
Broughton, Alice	September 23
Caldwell, Oliver	September 25
Payne-Mullett, Lori	September 25
Scales, Tori	September 26
Beckey, Lyle	September 28
Lucas, Mike	September 29
Kelley, Brenda	September 30



Many of you signed up to pray for two of our members who were facing and going through some physical challenges. This sign of support and love has been appreciated. Please continue to remember your time to pray daily for both of these People as their medical staff care for their needs.

ALSO

1. Remember the family members who support them.
2. Neighbors and friends as they support these friends.
3. Pray for wisdom for the Doctors as they focus on these cases.
4. Ask God to bring these loved ones to our minds to remember them in special times they may need to feel our support.
5. I'd remind you to send cards BUT you are all so very good at that that you only need to be praised. It is wonderful seeing God's love pouring through this congregation.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Michael & Mary Pugh	September 1, 1968
Chris & Lyndsey Beattie	September 4, 2004
Julie & Derek Sobek	September 6, 2008
Les & Dorothy Hendricks	September 17, 1988
Nik & Sharon Caldwell	September 20, 1968
Kevin & Tracy Scales	September 21, 1994
Marion & Pat Upton	September 26, 1964

Thanks



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

Address Correction Requested

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.RIVERTONFIRSTUMC.ORG



THE OAKS

Deadline for next issue is
Sunday, **September 16, 2009**
E-mail articles to
newsletter@rivertonfirstumc.org

Looking Ahead

- September 6, Outdoor Worship
- September 13 United Methodist Women Sunday
- September 25-27, Riverfest
- September 26, 4-7 PM Otterbein Cluster Picnic, Here
- October 4, 6:00 PM, Otterbein Cluster Gathering for Music
- October 17, 8:30 – 4:30, Forged in the Fire, Phase 2, Springfield 1st UMC
- October 24 Chili Supper
- October 31 Trunk-er Treat
- November 8 United Methodist Men Sunday
- November 15, 12 Noon, Charge Conference
- November 22, 6:00 PM, Community Thanksgiving Service
- November 26, Thanksgiving Day
- November 28, Hanging of the Greens
- November 29, Advent Begins
- December 6, 6:00 PM, Cluster Christmas Service
- December 24, 10:00 PM Christmas Eve Candle Light Service
- December 25, Celebration of the Birth of our Lord