



# THE OAKS



Riverton First United Methodist Church

NOVEMBER 1, 2009

## Pastor's Letter

### CELEBRATING NOVEMBER

November is the month for Thanksgiving. But it is also much more. It is International Drum Month and Peanut Butter Lovers' Month. Celebrating both at the same time could be a little messy. There are also special days in November. The third is Sandwich Day, by virtue of being the birthday of John Montague, the Fourth Earl of Sandwich. He is credited with inventing the convenience food which bears his name. I suppose it could be observed by eating a peanut butter sandwich. Many of us may also observe it after Thanksgiving by eating cold turkey sandwiches. November 15<sup>th</sup> is National Clean Out Your Refrigerator Day. Honoring it could be a way of making room the turkey and trimmings to come.

The day after Thanksgiving has historically been called Black Friday. It is the biggest shopping day of the year—the day the stores make sure they will finish the year in the *black* (with a profit) instead of the *red* (a loss). More recently there has been a move to declare the day after Thanksgiving as Buy Nothing Day. The rationale for that is that our consumer culture is out of control. We spend too much, on things we do not really need. We overdo it. 20 % of the world's population lives in the industrialized countries, but we consume 75 % of the world's timber and energy, all while producing 90% of the harmful wastes. A one-day moratorium on buying will not change that, but it can remind us of our priorities and responsibilities.

The Rev. Pam Ashley, a United Methodist pastor in California, wrote some eighteen years ago about the season she called *Hallowthankmas* that runs all the way from October until after the start of the year. It is a "three month marathon of card-sending, party-throwing,

putting up and taking down decorations, overeating and overbuying," she said. Nothing has changed in the years since then. It has only grown worse. All three holidays—All Hallows Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas—began as religious observances, but have been largely torn from those roots. All Hallows Day, or All Saints Day, comes November 1. But more attention by far is paid the day before, All Hallows Eve, or Halloween. Instead of honoring the saints who went before us we end up emphasizing ghouls, goblins and fictional monsters. Thanksgiving, rooted in gratitude for survival in difficult pilgrim days, now features mostly football and family reunions. Instead of celebrating the nativity of our Lord, Christmas is all about Santa Claus and buying and partying. No wonder depression rates rise during this time of year.

So there are lots of things to do and celebrate in the days and weeks to come. Whether you eat peanut butter sandwiches, or clean your refrigerator or watch football, try to keep things in perspective. Give thanks for the privilege of living in wealthy nation where we are free to worship and do many other things. Specifically, give thanks to God, and to his son Jesus, who came to be born and live among us so that we can live eternally. It will be good for us, and will rub off on others. *But thanks be to God, who in Christ leads us in triumphal procession and spreads through us in every place the fragrance that comes from knowing him.* 2 Corinthians 2:14

Pastor Jonathan Dixon



Have a Merry HallowThankMas



**Brrrrr....**

In late October we discovered that our furnaces were not ready for winter. In fact, one will need to be replaced before the cold weather hits full force. The Trustees are working on it. Prayers for wisdom as they make a decision are requested.

# The November United Methodist Women

The Program is being led by **Barb Lucas** as it is the Pledge Service.

This is the time when we learn about the areas our donations for the calendar year go and decide how much we wish to pledge for the coming year. Some of the places we support are: Kids Café, Minnie O'Burne, Sojourn Center, Kumler medical needs, Food Pantry, Asbury Children's Supper Hour, Inner City Mission, etc. etc. Plus our much loved and appreciated Card Ministry.

**Barb Rhodes** and **Doris Lamkey** are the Hostesses.



See you in the **Fellowship** Hall  
Tuesday November 10th at 7 PM

**If you have any questions contact Ellen at [gramto6@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gramto6@sbcglobal.net) or call her at 629-9270.**



P.S. There are still bags of pecans—For Sale. Plus the new Pecans are in.





# November 2009



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 All Saints Day, Regular Service Schedule, On Standard Time (Daylight Time Ends) Including Youth Group at 11:30 AM	2 7:00 PM, Board of Trustees	3 5:30 – 7:00 PM, Bible Study	4 7:00 PM, Choir Practice	5	6	7
8 United Method- ist Men Sunday, Regular Morning Schedule 6:30 PM, Finance Committee 7:15 PM, Administra- tive Council	9	10 5:30 – 7:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM United Methodist Women	11 Veterans' Day 7:00 PM, Choir Practice	12	13	14 7:30 AM, United Meth- odist Men
15 9:30 AM, Wor- ship 10:30 AM, Coffee Fellow- ship 10:35 AM, Sunday School 11:30 AM, Youth Group 12:00 PM, Charge Conference 5:00 PM, Inner City Mission News	16	17 5:30 – 7:00 PM, Bible Study	18	19	20	21
22 Christ the King Sunday, 9:30 AM, Worship 10:30 AM, Sunday School 6:00 PM, Commu- nity Thanksgiving Service at First Baptist Church	23	24	25	26 <b>Thanksgiving Day</b> 	27	28 9:00 AM, Hanging of the Greens
29 Advent Begins, 9:30 AM, Wor- ship 10:30 AM, 10:30 AM, Sun- day School 11:30 AM, Youth Group	30					

1. The New Pecans are Here – See any UMW member.
2. There is still some real vanilla for your holiday baking
3. Cunningham Children’s Home is only collecting the Box Tops for Education until November 30<sup>th</sup>. The Campbell’s labels are not being accepted after that November date.
4. Thanks for all the support in our Chili/Soup Supper. You are appreciated.

## Advent Bible Study

We will be having a 3 week study regarding the Nativity Story for the first three Tuesdays November 3rd, 10th and 17th. It will last for an hour and a half from 5:30-7:00 pm in the Denkert Room.



There will be soup and sandwiches available to facilitate those who may be busy before this time.

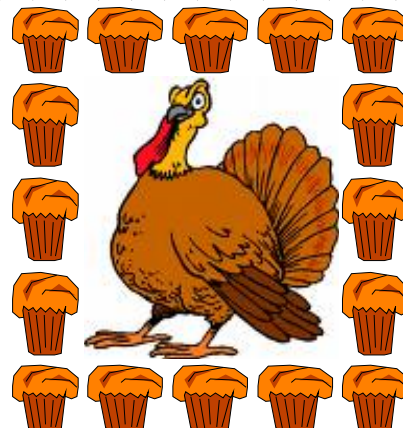
Come and enjoy this Bible time and the participants of the class.

## BIRTHDAYS

Carriker, Grace	November 2
Armintrout, Mike	November 4
Daniels, Nancy	November 5
Sexton, Bobbie	November 8
Allison, Cheryl	November 9
Mann, Bill	November 10
Dixon, Ellen	November 11
Morris, Vernon	November 14
Tester, Corey	November 14
Pantier, Thomas	November 16
Binion, Scott	November 18
Evans, Matthew	November 20
Tester, Callie	November 23
Morris, Velma	November 25
Freeman, Charles	November 26

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Timothy & Bobbie Sexton	November 9, 1979
Don & Marsha Sutton	November 23, 1973
James & Kim Rusciollelli	November 23, 1983
Thomas & Melissa Pantier	November 23, 1991
Dennis & Bonnie Klaves	November 27, 1958





**RIVERTON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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Deadline for next issue is  
Sunday, **November 15, 2009**  
E-mail articles to  
[newsletter@rivertonfirstumc.org](mailto:newsletter@rivertonfirstumc.org)



**Looking Ahead**

- 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 20, Christmas Musical
- December 24, 10:00 PM Christmas Eve Candle Light Service
- December 24, 10:00 PM, Candlelight Christmas Vespers
- December 25, Celebration of the Birth of our Lord

