



# THE OAKS



Riverton First United Methodist Church

JUNE 1, 2009

## Pastor's Letter

### COMPLAINT DEPARTMENT

I was driving along one of these recent spring days, noticing the unpredictability of the weather. It had been cool the day before, but this day was hot, a reminder of the many hot, humid days of summer yet to come. "I don't like hot weather," I thought to myself. Then I got to thinking about the other alternative—the days when snow and ice are all around and the temperature drops way down. Every winter I say it to myself, "I don't like cold weather." I finally concluded that "I just don't like weather, I guess."

I was wrong of course. Upon further reflection, or perhaps by the nudging of the Spirit, I came to realize that my real problem was not with the hot weather. My real problem was not weather-related at all. It wasn't so much that I disliked the weather. It was something I liked, rather than disliked, that was my problem. I like to complain! The weather only gives me opportunity to exercise that natural tendency. I notice, however, that I am not alone in this tendency. It is common to all humans. We think, and say, how much better it would be if this or that detail were changed about our circumstances. Instead of appreciating how things are, we look at how they are not, and complain about the difference. Reality is that our circumstances are never perfect, but they could always be worse. And sometimes by complaining we actually make them worse. We make them worse for ourselves because we give our minds over to a negative attitude. As soon as I start complaining about how hot it is today, I am reminded that sometimes it's too cold, and I don't like that either. And as noted above, it leads my reasoning toward wrong conclusions, instead of the more accu-



rate conclusion that I have given in to a negative attitude. I am looking for, and finding, faults instead of blessings.

My complaining makes things worse for others around me too. They have to listen and put up with me. That gives them something to complain about. And so the spiral continues. Negative thoughts and words give rise to the same in others, who infect their realms of influence with more of the same. So the complaints abound and the everyday blessings of life are taken for granted and ignored.

The truth is that I do have many blessings. On the day it was too hot to suit me, I had windows in my car I could open and get a fresh breeze, while riding to the air conditioned building which was my destination on that particular trip. On the days I remembered when it was too cold for my taste; I had warm clothes and heated buildings to spend my time in. it just seems to come naturally to us humans to complain.

So what can we do about it? First, be aware. Notice that we are falling into a pattern of complaint. Second, stop. We can control our mouths, with practice. Finally, get help. Our best source of help is from God, the, the giver of every good and perfect gift (James 1:17). My prayer for myself and all you other human beings is that the Holy Spirit will help us with this challenge this month: to complain less and count our blessing more. I want to be able to say with St. Paul, "I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances." (Philippians 4:11)

Pastor Jonathan Dixon

### MISSION STATEMENT

*Our mission is to draw people into relationship with Christ and the church and to lovingly challenge them to spiritual growth.*

### OUR VISION

*A warm fellowship of Christians in the Riverton area, growing in numbers and spiritual stature, with facilities and programs to do ministry in the name of Christ, for generations to come.*



# Vacation Bible School

June 13th-17th, 2010

## Opportunities



\*\*Suppers are at 5:00 PM nightly at St. James Church

Sunday is a potluck; Monday and Wednesday we are to prepare the meal.

\*\*Decorating the scenery June 7 and 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM

and Saturday the 12<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM.

\*\*Sign up on the clipboard for buying supplies for the crafts, snacks or Games or cookies for the Thursday finale, when it goes around.

\*\* Please speak with Nadine M. or Ellen D. if you would like to help in any way.

### BIRTHDAYS

Beckey, Kim	June 4
Armbruster, Jack	June 5
Logsdon, Leigh Anne	June 5
Patsy Skaggs	June 7
Skaggs, Patsy	June 5
Cox, Linda	June 7
Carriker, Ken	June 12
Hallford, Violet	June 12
Julian Doranne	June 12
Greenwood , Kelsy	June 13
Warren, Colin	June 13
Pearson, Carries	June 16
Pugh, Michael	June 18
Kresse, Marilyn	June 20
Pantier, Scott	June 20
Todd, Majorie	June 20
Carriker, Sarah	June 26
Upton, Marion	June 26
Pearson, Brett	June 27
Logsdon, Cindy	June 28
Schermerhorn, Darlene	June 30



The United Methodist Men will be teaching the Sunday School classes for the month of June to give the leadership of the Christian Education a summer break. A THANKS goes out to these wonderful men!!!



### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Scott & Shawn Binion	June 3, 2006
Ron & Cheryl Armintrout	June 7, 1970
Mike & Barb Lucas	June 12, 1976

**Forget when an event is happening?**

Check the OAKS Online at [www.rivertonfirstumc.org](http://www.rivertonfirstumc.org)



## The United Methodist Women Will Meet:



Tuesday June 8th at 7:00 PM.

**Program will be given by Nadine MacKenzie. Hostesses: are Sharon Stricsh and Hope McKenzie**

We welcome all the ladies of the Church. Please come join us.



**Come See Us At The Fellowship Hall.**

P.S. We still have Pecans left, pieces \$7.00 halves \$8.00. Call Rose Hughes 629-9565, Barbara Rhodes 629-9247, Doris Lamkey



629-9556, Bonnie Klaves 629-9794—or—any member. We also still have Chili for \$5.00 per qt.



## Here Ye! Here Ye! Here Ye!

Thanks to all who came and had fun, fun and more laughs at the first 3D evening; **“Drama, Ditties and Din-**

**ner”** that was held on Friday evening May 21st. It was great fun!!



Thanks to the worship committee



for all the effort and planning. Thanks for the suggestion — whoever put that in the suggestion box at the back of the sanctuary.



# June 2009



1	Tuesday	
2	Wednesday	Annual Conference in Peoria
3	Thursday	Annual Conference in Peoria
4	Friday	Annual Conference in Peoria
5	Saturday	Annual Conference in Peoria, 12:00 PM Reception for Thomas graduates, at Up-tons' House on Lincoln
6	Sunday	9:30 Worship, Including a Healing Service, 10:30 Sunday School, with U M Men teaching Children's classes, 11:30 AM High School Youth, 6:00 PM Junior High Youth
7	Monday	7:00 PM Board of Trustees, Also 7:00 PM, VBS Decorating for Scenery
8	Tuesday	7:00 PM United Methodist Women
9	Wednesday	7:00 PM VBS Decorating
10	Thursday	
11	Friday	
12	Saturday	7:30 AM United Methodist Men, 10:00 AM VBS Decorating
13	Sunday	9:30 AM Worship, 10:30 AM Sunday School, with U M Men teaching, 2:30 – 4:30 PM reception for Supt. Jerry King at Illiopolis UMC, 5:00 PM Potluck Meal for VBS at St. James Catholic Church, 6 – 8:30 PM Vacation Bible School with St. James Church
14	Monday	6 – 8:30 PM Vacation Bible School with St. James Church
15	Tuesday	6 – 8:30 PM Vacation Bible School with St. James Church
16	Wednesday	6 – 8:30 PM Vacation Bible School with St. James Church
17	Thursday	6 – 8:30 PM Vacation Bible School with St. James Church
18	Friday	
19	Saturday	
20	Sunday	Father's Day, 9:30 AM Worship, 10: 30 AM Sunday School. With U M Men teach- ing, 11:30 AM High School Youth, 6:00 PM Junior High Youth
21	Monday	
22	Tuesday	
23	Wednesday	
24	Thursday	
25	Friday	
26	Saturday	
27	Sunday	9:30 AM Worship, 10:30 AM Sunday School with U M Men teaching
28	Monday	
29	Tuesday	
30	Wednesday	

Saint James Catholic Church and Riverton First  
United Methodist Church announce our Annual --  
*Vacation Bible School.*



!!!!!! It is HERO HEADQUARTERS !!!!!!

June 13-17, 2010

The evenings start with Supper at 5:00.

The opening at St. James at 6:00.

The daily program ends at 8:30.

Classes, openings and closings, music and crafts are on the St. James site  
with games and snacks at the United Methodist site.

Thursday Evening program for the parents and friends is at 7:45. Cookies  
will be served at this time.

Sign up now to help your kids to get to know Heroes from the Bible that  
week.

To get a registration form see either the St. James church or the United  
Methodist office. 629-9270, 629-9270 or 691-7676.



## RIVERTON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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**WE'RE ON THE WEB!**

**[WWW.RIVERTONFIRSTUMC.ORG](http://WWW.RIVERTONFIRSTUMC.ORG)**



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Deadline for next issue is  
Sunday, **June 16, 2009**  
E-mail articles to  
[newsletter@rivertonfirstumc.org](mailto:newsletter@rivertonfirstumc.org)



### Looking Ahead

- † June 2 – 5, Annual Conference in Peoria.
- † June 13-17, Vacation Bible School
- † June 20, Father's Day
- † July 4, Independence Sunday
- † September 12, United Methodist Women Sunday
- † October 23, Chili / Soup Supper and Bazaar
- † October 31, Trunk-er-Treat

- † November 7, United Methodist Men Sunday
- † November 21, 6:00 PM Community Thanksgiving Service
- † November 25, Thanksgiving
- † November 27, Hanging of the Greens
- † November 28, Advent Begins
- † December 24, 10:00, Christmas Eve Candle Light Service

