

# THE OAKS



RIVERTON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

September 1, 2010

## Pastor's Letter: An October Story

The late E. B. White, a famous author of books for children (*Charlotte's Web* and *Stuart Little*) and adults (*Elements of Style*) and an editor for the *New Yorker* magazine, was married to another editor of that magazine, Katherine White. Besides her literary work, Katherine was an avid gardener, who suffered for years with a terminal disease. After her death, E. B. (Elwyn Brooks) White published a book of her essays under the title *Onward and Upward in the Garden*. The following is a quotation from his Introduction to the book.

The only moment in the year when [Katherine] actually got herself up for gardening was the day in the fall that she had selected, in advance, for the laying out of the spring bulb garden. The morning often turned out to be raw and overcast . . . Armed with a diagram and a clipboard, Katherine would get into a shabby old Brooks raincoat . . . and proceed to the director's chair . . . There she would sit, hour after hour, in the wind and the weather, while Henry Allen produced dozens of brown paper packages of new bulbs and a basketful of old ones, ready for the intricate interment. As the years went by and age overtook her, there was something comical yet touching in her bedraggled appearance on this awesome

occasion – the small, hunched-over figure, her studied absorption in the implausible notion that there would be another spring, oblivious to the ending of her own days, which she knew perfectly well was near at hand, sitting there with her detailed chart under those dark skies in the dying October, calmly plotting the resurrection.

In October the days are getting shorter, a chill is in the air, and the prospect of winter is upon us. Yet this is the time for planting the bulbs that will be a beautiful garden next spring. We expect another spring because we have experienced it every year of our lives to date. We anticipate the turning of the seasons and the renewal that will eventually come according to God's plan. Similarly, we believe in resurrection. We will celebrate "the resurrection" of Jesus Christ again next spring. And we believe in resurrection for believers in Christ. We don't all understand or agree on the order of events, like our deaths, the rapture and judgment day. But we believe in the promises of scripture that God is in control and we can be raised to life eternal with him, somehow, someday. I am not a gardener, but this fall I will plant the bulbs of promise figuratively, and believe in the resurrection literally.

Pastor Jonathan Dixon

## 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.*

## MISSION STATEMENT

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

**THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN WILL MEET**

TUESDAY OCTOBER 12TH AT 7 P.M.

PROGRAM: EVELYN GANDY & JERI SUCECH  
 HOSTESSES: PATSY SKAGGS, PAT UPTON & HARRIET BECKEY  
 THIS IS FOOD PANTRY MONTH  
 THE FALL CHILI SUPPER IS OCTOBER 23RD



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



Come See Us At Fellowship The Hall

*P.S. We still have Pecans: 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.*

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Armbruster, Benjamin	10/02/2005
Bernahl, James	10/02/1926
Walters, Paul	10/09/1970
Dial, James	10/12/1962
Skaggs, George	10/12/1945
Cessna, Rose	10/13/0000
Gandy, Evelyn	10/15/1942
Kresse, Anna Marie	10/15/1948
Pugh, Mary	10/16/0000
Rhodes, Deborah	10/17/1953
Martincic, John	10/18/1974
Pfeiffer, Roger	10/20/1959
Sloman, Tyler	10/20/1979
Bruce, Vickie	10/21/1955
Mann, Yvonne	10/21/0000
Pfeiffer, Ryan	10/21/1993
Caldwell, John	10/26/1952
Sloman, Samantha	10/29/1982

**METHODIST MEN NEWS**



Again in October the Riverton Methodist Men is requesting from members of our church family for personal care items for the Riverton Food Pantry. In this trying time these are items the Food Pantry can not afford to purchase. The Methodist Men knows that everyone in our church family is having personal financial challenges also, so we are asking you to give what you can to help the food pantry. In the past this has been a big help to the food pantry and is appreciated by people that the food pantry serves. Below is the list of personal care items that is being requested.

Paper Towels, Kleenex, Toilet Paper, Deodorant, Bar Soap, Shampoo, Toothpaste, Tooth Brushes, Laundry Soap, and Dish Soap

**SCRIP NEWS**

This program has been very popular with our church and what an asset it has proved to be! Just this August the SCRIP program has paid another \$1,000.00 on the principal of the church's loan. If you have not been familiar with this program, this is how it works. You will find enclosed an order sheet for Gift Cards from many of the local businesses that you would normally frequent. You decide where you would like to have gift cards from, mark the form as to your desires, write a check for that amount of the gift cards and give it to Doris Lamkey. The next Sunday, you will have your gift cards for the exact amount you requested and may use them as such; however, the business you bought the cards for, will donate the indicated percentage of the card value to our church. It is such a "win/win" situation for you, for your church and for the business. If you haven't used this program in the past, please consider it in the near future. All proceeds are directly paid on the church's loan principal.

**Happy Anniversary**

James & Roberta Bernahl	10/06/1950
Andrews & Lesta Fitzpatrick	10/06/2007
Robert & Rose Hughes	10/28/1961

SCRIP ORDER DATE	SCRIP PICK-UP DATE
10/3/2010	10/10/2010
10/17/2010	10/24/2010
11/7/2010	11/14/2010
11/21/2010	11/28/2010
11/28/2010	12/5/2010

## TRUSTEE NEWS

Thank you to those who have generously donated money for the new air conditioner. The final payment has been made and we are free and clear from that debt. THANK YOU!

Our beautiful church yard has looked great all summer. A new program began this year where you signed up to mow the yard yourself or paid to have Scott Pantier mow it. Also the Pantiers donated a new push mower to get in those hard to reach places.

The trustees are in the process of repairing the sidewalk from the church to the parsonage, at the same time that drainage issues will be addressed around the perimeter of the parsonage home. Also before the leaves start falling from our beautiful trees, we need to have a dead branch clean-up for the area over the parking lot.

Should you see a problem with anything in or around the church, please advise a trustee as soon as possible. The trustees at present include: Ron Armintrout-Chairman, George Skaggs- Vice Chairman, Ernie Grieme, Tom Pantier, Brett Pearson, Nik Caldwell, J. T. Armbruster, Mel Allison, Judy McCullough

## QUILTERS NEWS

### ARE YOU ABLE?

Are you? Are you able to talk, sew, quilt? Would you be interested in joining us for a quilt time? Interest has been expressed to start up a quilt group again. No time has been set for a meeting, so we would appreciate your input, if you are interested. Please see Doris Lamkey or Judy McCullough if you would like to quilt and/or learn to quilt. In the past the money received for quilting the treasures of folks, had been donated to a need or project going on in our church.

## OCTOBER PRAYER SUGGESTIONS

From the Prayer Team

IT'S HARVEST TIME. The trees are turning red and gold and the crops are drying, their fruit ready to be harvested. Our prayers for this beautiful autumn season includes an abundant harvest. We pray for the safety for the farmers and all who work at harvesting and storing the crops. Many accidents can occur during this season.

October is also a month to remember Columbus discovering America. That day in 1492 started a chain reaction that is still going on today. Events are occurring now that our forefathers never dreamed would or even could happen on our land. Our prayers should continue for America, the land of the free and the home of the brave. God Bless America!!

October is the second month of school. The children are hitting the books and also renewing friendships and making new friends. October also ends with a fun time for children; and old alike. We at our church have Trunk or Treat. It's a time for children to dress up as their favorite character and come to get goodies. But they also find a place they may want to visit again on Sunday mornings in Sunday school. Maybe they can talk their parents into coming, too.

God can use many different ways of planting the Seeds of the Spirit so we can water and nourish the seeds and He can harvest souls for His Kingdom. Yes, it's Harvest Time and God is working overtime to harvest souls. But His harvest time doesn't end with October....it will go on until our Savior comes again. **First Thursday, the Day of Fasting and Prayer, is October 7.**

### 2010 Budget

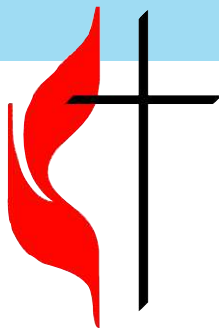
Annual Need .....	\$117,745.20
Per Week Need .....	\$2,264.33

### Budget Update through August 31, 2010

Budget Need .....	\$79,251.58
Collections .....	\$71,439.42
Overage (Shortage) .....	(\$7,812.16)

### Unpaid Bills as of August 31, 2010

4 months of Clergy Support & Administration ...	\$2,700.00
4 months of Benevolences / Connectional ...	\$1,736.00
Total unpaid bills .....	\$4,436.00



## RIVERTON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

429 EAST LINCOLN STREET  
PO BOX 440  
RIVERTON, IL 62561

PHONE: (217) 629-9721  
EMAIL: [rvtnumc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rvtnumc@sbcglobal.net)

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

Address Correction Requested

[www.rivertonfirstumc.org](http://www.rivertonfirstumc.org)

### THE OAKS

Deadline for next issue is  
Sunday, **November 21, 2010**  
[newsletter@rivertonfirstumc.org](mailto:newsletter@rivertonfirstumc.org)

## LOOKING AHEAD

November 7, Daylight Saving Time ends

November 14, 12 Noon Charge Conference (With Soup and Sandwiches at 11:30 AM)

November 21, 6:00 PM Community Thanksgiving Service

November 27, Hanging of the Greens

November 28, Advent Begins

December 19, 7:00 PM Christmas Musical

December 25, 10:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Vespers



**2010**

1	Friday	
2	Saturday	
3	Sunday	9:30 AM Worship, 10:30 AM Sunday School, 11:30 AM High School Youth
4	Monday	7:00 PM Board of Trustees
5	Tuesday	
6	Wednesday	7:00 PM Choir Practice
7	Thursday	First Thursday A Day of Fasting and Prayer
8	Friday	
9	Saturday	7:30 AM United Methodist Men
10	Sunday	Covenant Sunday, 9:30 Worship, 10:30 Sunday School, 6:30 PM Finance Committee, 7:15 PM Administrative Council
11	Monday	
12	Tuesday	7:00 PM United Methodist Women
13	Wednesday	7:00 PM Choir Practice
14	Thursday	
15	Friday	
16	Saturday	
17	Sunday	November News Items Due, 9:30 AM Worship, 10:30 AM Sunday School, 11:30 AM High School Youth
18	Monday	
19	Tuesday	
20	Wednesday	7:00 PM Choir Practice
21	Thursday	
22	Friday	
23	Saturday	3-7 PM Chili / Soup Supper and Bazaar
24	Sunday	9:30 AM Worship, 10:30 AM Sunday School
25	Monday	
26	Tuesday	
27	Wednesday	7:00 PM Choir Practice
28	Thursday	
29	Wednesday	
30	Thursday	
31		Reformation Day, 9:30 AM Worship, 10:30 AM Sunday School 5-6:30 PM Trunk-er-Treat

## MEMORIAL GARDNER NEWS



After many months of committee meetings, the United Methodist Memorial Garden has come to fruition. If you have not done so already, please take a moment to stop by and pay your respects. The mission of the committee was to provide a final resting place for church members and their families. As you can tell from the pictures, it is a very peaceful and serene location. Thank you to committee members: JT Armbruster, Grace Carricker, Pastor Jonathon Dixon, Lori Payne-Mullet, George Skaags, and Don Sutton. If you have any questions about the memorial garden, please see one of the committee members.

