

August 1, 2012

The Oaks



Riverton First United Methodist Church, (217) 629-9721

Surviving the Drought

It's hot. And dry. It wears me out. I can identify with the words in Psalm 32:4, where it says, ". . . my strength is dried up as by the heat of summer." The older English versions said "as by the drought of summer." Drought is exactly what we are going through this summer. And it is wearing on all of us.

Most of us who read the newsletter are spoiled by air conditioning. We have it in our homes, our cars, where we shop, and where we go to work or school. We wonder how the previous generations survived. In truth, they probably wondered how they could survive the heat too. But they did, somehow, and left us words like those above, "my strength is dried up."

The drought makes us want to just stay indoors. There we don't have to feel the heat, or see the damage the drought is doing to our crops, our gardens and our lawns. We won't suffer as badly as some of those previous generations, when scorched crops meant no food, literal starvation, in some cases. But we still feel the effects, especially the farmers and those who have to haul water for daily use. We will be able to import food from other parts of the world that are not affected by our drought. We probably won't starve, but the losses and inconvenience are real.

Yes, the unremitting dry heat is wearing. It saps my strength. But as I meditated on it, I was reminded by God to listen to my own preaching, as when I recently preached from Nehemiah that "the joy of the Lord is your strength" (8:10). My thoughts were also directed to Isaiah 58:11: The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your need in parched places, and make your bones strong: you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail.

God has promised through the prophet to guide us and to give us joy, even in these parched places where we find ourselves right now. By God's grace we can thrive, like the plants of a garden fed by a never-failing spring. These words are metaphorical of course. They can speak to our spiritual condition in the dry seasons of our spirit, as well as to our coping with the very real dry heat of this summer's drought.

I also found comfort in the words of Jeremiah: Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is in the Lord. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green: in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit (17:7-8).

In order to receive the help God is offering us we must trust. Then we need not be anxious in the year of drought. Indeed, they can continue to bear fruit. Again, the meanings are both literal and metaphorical. Trees literally planted by streams of water really do fare better than others not so planted. And we humans who trust in God can thrive best as well by relying on God's guidance, and cultivating a spirit of deliberate joy.

Pastor Jonathan Dixon

RFUMC Calendar – July 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 9:00 AM Quilting	2	3	4
5 Friendship Day 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Sunday School	6 7:00 PM Board of Trustees	7	8 9:00 AM Quilting	9	10	11 7:00 AM United Methodist Men
12 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Sunday School; 6:15 PM Finance Committee; 7:15 PM Administrative Council	13	14 7:00 PM United Methodist Women	15 9:00 AM Quilting	16	17	18
19 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Coffee Fellowship; 10:35 Sunday School	20 7:00 PM Staff-Parish Relations Committee	21	22 9:00 AM Quilting	23	24	25
26 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Sunday School	27	28	29 9:00 AM Quilting	30	31	

Looking Ahead...

September 9	United Methodist Women Sunday
September 15-16	Camp-Out on Church Grounds
October 13	Chili Supper
October 31	Trunk-er Treat
November 11	United Methodist Men Sunday
November 18, 6:00 PM	Community Thanksgiving Service
December 1	Hanging of the Greens
December 2	Advent Begins
December 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



Announcing: Family Campfest

Please come and bring the family to a family fun time of games and activities that start at noon on Saturday September 15 and conclude with a picnic potluck after Worship outdoors on September 16th. All activities will be on the grounds of the church with campfires (weather permitting), music, etc. The families can come and participate in all or part of the 24 hour Campfest. More information will follow with flyers to be available in August.

Put this on your calendar and save the dates for the first ever FAMILY CAMPFEST!!! September 15-16, 2012!

United Methodist Men

The UMM had their regular meeting at 7:30 AM Saturday, July 14. They conducted two items of business while eating breakfast together. They are forwarding \$1000 to the church general budget toward the parsonage remodeling project. They also voted to cancel the Fried Chicken Dinner previously scheduled for August 25, due to the ongoing heat wave.

The men continue to support the Riverton Food Pantry with semiannual donations and periodic collection of personal care products to be distributed with the food to qualifying families in the Riverton School District. They also continue to collect and redeem aluminum cans at the Trustee garage by the parsonage.

Recycling

Perhaps you have noticed the containers around the church building. We have receptacles for paper, batteries, aluminum cans and ink cartridges. We gather these products and recycle them not to make money, because we can't make anything on any of it except the cans. We do it as an act of stewardship of the earth and the natural resources that God has given us. Feel free to deposit your bulletins and other papers there instead of just throwing them away. Bring your household batteries, aluminum cans and ink cartridges from home as well. We try to recycle plastic containers from the kitchen too. We can't save the whole world, but we can take responsibility for our own little corner of it.

August Birthdays

Harriett Beckey	8/3
Virginia Kleban	8/3/1922
Jo Anna Eyer	8/4/1938
Sarah Caldwell	8/5/1997
Michael McKenzie	8/5/1960
Dennis Klaves	8/13/1935
Jerry Julian	8/14/1945
Hope McKenzie	8/17/1959
Jeff Peel	8/17
Barbara Rhodes	8/18/1929
Shawna Dial	8/19/1990
Ian Day	8/21/2010
Hilda Fetter	8/22
Pat Baker	8/25/1954
Bob Hughes	8/25/1936
Craig Pearson	8/25/2001
Bonnie Klaves	8/26/1934
Sharon Caldwell	8/29/1948

August Anniversaries

Jonathan and Ellen Dixon,	8/8/1970
Mel and Cheryl Allison	8/14/1965
Jerry and Doranne Julian	8/14/1967
Barry and Tracy Tester	8/19/1978
Tom and Sharon Stroisch	8/28/1999

RFUMC 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 nurture, with facilities and programs to do ministry in the name of Jesus Christ for generations to come.

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Address Correction Requested

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Trustee News

Next Newsletter Deadline: August 19, 2012, carlyshank@yahoo.com

As stated in the last newsletter for our church, the trustees had been busy planning for repairs. As of this date, the contract has been let for the tuck pointing of the church. Evans Mason will do this work. All the bids were reviewed, studied, discussed, and compared. Evans Mason was not the cheapest bidder, nor were they the highest bidder; however, it was felt they would do the best job for the money.

Regarding the major repairs to the parsonage, it is still in the planning and discussion stages. However, it is hoped that this work will begin before fall.

In the meantime, please keep in mind to be careful of any construction equipment sitting around the church building as the tuck pointing repairs begin.

Again.....the trustees are extremely grateful for the donations by the church's organizations and personal donations towards these big projects.

The United Methodist Women

will meet: Tuesday, August 14th at 7:00 P.M.

Program: Report on Schools of Christian Mission

Hostesses: Hope McKenzie and Sharon Stroisch

We welcome all the ladies of the Church.
Come see us in the fellowship hall.