

April 1, 2013

# The Oaks



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

## MISTAKES AND THEIR AFTERMATH

Dr. Stephen Glenn (1941 – 2004) was a psychologist educator, author and nationally recognized expert on drug-dependency prevention programs. One of his programs goes by the name Developing Capable Young People. I tell you all that just to show you that he is a reliable source, because I want to share a story attributed to him. (If you want to know more about him, he is easy to look up.) He tells a wonderful story about a famous research scientist who had made several very important medical breakthroughs. A newspaper reporter interviewed this scientist and asked why, in his own opinion; he was so much more creative than the average person.

This scientist answered that he believed it was because of an experience he had with his mother when he was about two years old. He had been trying to get a bottle of milk out of the refrigerator when he lost his grip on it, spilling its contents all over the kitchen floor. It created a veritable sea of milk!

When his mother came into the kitchen, instead of yelling at him, giving him a lecture or punishing him, she said, "Robert, what a great and wonderful mess you have made! I have rarely seen such a huge puddle of milk. Well, the damage has been done. Would you like to play in the milk for a few minutes before we clean it up?"

Robert thought that was a great idea. After a few minutes, his mother said, "You know, Robert, when you make a mess like this, eventually you have to clean it up. So, how would you like to do that? Would you rather use a sponge, a towel, or a mop?" He chose the sponge, and together they cleaned up the mess. His mother then said, "You know, what we have here is a failed experiment in how to effectively carry a big milk bottle with two little hands. Let's go out to the back yard and fill the bottle up with water. Then we'll see if you can figure out a way to carry it without dropping it." The little boy learned that if he grasped the bottle at the top with both hands, he could carry it without dropping it. It was a wonderful lesson!

This renowned scientist then remarked that at that moment he knew he didn't need to be afraid of making mistakes. Instead, he learned that mistakes were just opportunities for learning something new, which is, after all, what scientific experiments are all about. Even if the experiment doesn't work, we usually learn something valuable from it.

This is such a nice story that I don't even feel the need to try to make some profound spiritual application to tag onto it. It's just a good human lesson. We all make mistakes. How we and others, especially authorities, react to them makes a great deal of difference. So go ahead. Live freely. Make some mistakes. React creatively to them. And learn important lessons from them. Share the lessons with others, and we will all be the better off for it. God bless you.

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

# RFUMC Calendar – April 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 7:00 PM Board of Trustees	2	3 9:00 PM Quilting; 12:00 PM Mem- bership Team; 7:00 PM Choir Practice	4	5	6
7 9:30 AM Worship, featuring Prentice Sermon; 10:30 Coffee Fellowship	8 7:00 PM Staff-Parish Relations Committee	9 7:00 PM United Methodist Women	10 9:00 AM Quilting; 7:00 PM Choir Practice	11	12	13 7:30 AM United Methodist Men
14 9:30 AM Sunday School; 6:30 PM finance and Ad- ministration Meeting	15	16	17 9:00 AM Quilting; 12:00 PM Mem- bership Team; 7:00 PM Choir Practice	18	19	20
21 9:30 AM Worship	22	23	24 9:00 AM Quilting; 7:00 PM Choir Practice	25	26	27
28 Bring A Friend Sunday 9:30 AM Worship	29	30				

## Looking Ahead...

May 1, 6:00 PM Mother—Child Banquet  
 May 12, Mother's Day  
 May 19, Consecration Sunday  
 June 5 – 8 Annual Conference  
 June 16, Father's Day  
 July 9, UMW Indoor Picnic  
 September 8, United Methodist Women Sunday  
 October 12, Chili Supper  
 November 10, United Methodist Men Sunday

*NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: APRIL 21*

## April Birthdays

Zachary Thomas	4/14/1992
Barry Tester	4/15
Josey Stoneburner	4/16/1997
Staci Byers	4/18
Helen Julius	4/19
Megan Mackenzie	4/19/1995
Nadine Mackenzie	4/21/1986
Marsha Sutton	4/24/1951
Janet Gowin	4/29/1940

## April Anniversaries

Richard and Melba Blakley	4/12/1957
Craig and Connie Thomas	4/15/1989
Lyle and Harriet Beckey	4/19/1958



# Bring a Friend Sunday

April 28th is being declared BRING A FRIEND TO CHURCH SUNDAY!

You are being asked to consider three friends you would consider inviting to come to church with you. These considerations are important and to support you in this effort we are asking for our church family to pray for each other and for those who are being invited. What a joy to have more people in attendance in our fellowship, to love and have time with!

This follows our Vision: *"A warm fellowship of Christians in the Riverton Area, growing in numbers, in Spiritual nurture, with facilities and programs to do ministry in the name of Jesus Christ for generations to come."* And our Mission Statement: *"Our mission is to draw people into relationship with Christ and the church and to lovingly challenge them to spiritual growth."*

## Thanks

Thanks go out to those who do so much on a regular basis. We have had these people for so long that is our NORM. They may be unknown actions or ever so obvious. These acts of kindness all pooled together make this church the warm welcoming place we call our home. Some actions are the outside aisle ushers each Sunday, Those that collect the sign in sheets to be sure people are welcomed. Offering counters that allow for credibility and accuracy. The Oaks distributors. Those that listen and consider all the hums and clanks that may need attention. The huggers and those who quietly pray for all the people we love. Thank you for smoothing out the road ahead of us.

## Church Committees

Recently the Stewardship Committee met and determined that there may be members of the congregation that are not aware of what certain committees and groups do in the church. It was decided to place an article regarding one of these committees or groups in the newsletter each month to inform the congregation and perhaps interest some of you to join a committee or group and enhance our church with your knowledge and talents.

This month's committee is the Media Committee. This committee runs the power point program during worship and other services. They also produce the power point programs and work the audio for the choir and where needed. If you are interested in joining this group please speak to Rev. Dixon or any of the committee members. Current members are Kim Beckey, Nik Caldwell, Deb Greenwood, Tom Pantier and Carly Shank.

THE UNITED METHODIST  
WOMEN WILL MEET:  
TUESDAY, APRIL 9<sup>TH</sup>  
AT 7:00 P.M.  
PROGRAM: BETTY PEEL  
HOSTESSES: ELLEN DIXON  
& BARB LUCAS

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

WE WISH TO THANK  
EVERY ONE FOR ALL THE  
SUPPORT  
DURING THE CHILI SUPPER

Riverton First United Methodist  
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Address Correction Requested

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## New Church Directory!

Your Membership Committee is working on a new directory for the Riverton United Methodist Church. Soon there will be an opportunity for you to give the committee the information you would like to have in the directory.

This information will be the names of the people in your household, the phone numbers you wish to list (land line and/or cells) addresses (street and/or Post Office box #) Birthdays and Anniversaries can be listed as you desire, also your e-mails, as you wish.

We are working on getting pictures for a pictorial directory as part of this process also. Dates for this will be announced when final plans are made.

We look forward to getting to help the congregation to become more informed and get to know you all more. It is a pleasure for us to work on this list of wonderful people that are associated with our church. Thanks for helping us get this tool of fellowship in place for our mutual support.

