

July 1, 2013

# The Oaks



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

## Scratchings from the Dixon Pencil

### The Gospel in Brief

Sometimes it is hard for preachers to keep it short. Preachers and theologians have a long history of long-windedness. Recognizing this, one speaker began with words to this effect: "I understand that my job is to talk to you. Your job is to listen. If you quit before I do, I hope you'll let me know." In ages past people were more tolerant of long presentations, I think, but these days our attention span has been shortened by mini-ads on television and things like text messaging and twitter. Back in the day, Martin Luther posted 95 theses at Wittenburg to open a theological dialogue. The Westminster Confession has 107 questions. The Church of England had 39 Articles, which John Wesley and the Methodists shortened to 25. Still, Wesley added 3 General Rules: Do no Harm; Do Good and Attend to the ordinances of the Church. (That last one has recently been edited down by Bishop Rueben Job to "Stay in love with God." That contemporary rendering of the rules is more in keeping with our modern sound-bite mentality. It would fit on a T-shirt, or maybe a bumper sticker.

The Rev. Bob Kaylor, writing in *Homiletics* magazine (September-October 2012) last year challenged his readers, who are mostly preachers, to think about the message of their faith and see how they could express it briefly, and in a striking way. His own suggestion came from a survey he had heard of once. The survey asked the question, "What three words do you most want to hear?" The top three answers, he said, were:

1. I love you.
2. I forgive you
3. Dinner is ready

Kaylor's conclusion was that those answers would be hard to improve upon. They strike at the heart of the life message of Jesus Christ. I agree.

The main point of the appearance of Jesus Christ in the flesh was to demonstrate that God loves us. John 3:16 says "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him will not perish but have everlasting life." The point of his dying was to extend forgiveness to all who would receive it. Jesus' work here on earth was also largely involved in feeding the hungry, both the physically and spiritually hungry of the earth. For the 5000 who were hungry after coming out to hear him talk, he provided a meal of loaves and fish. In the Sermon on the Mount he promised, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled." And he kept that promise when individuals like Nicodemus came to him asking honest questions. He took time to speak with them and point them to spiritual truths. In the book of Revelation, we read the promise of a great feast in heaven after the ordeals of earth are over. The message of God: I love you. I forgive you. Dinner is ready.

Pastor Jonathan Dixon

# RFUMC Calendar – July 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 7:00 PM Trustees	2	3 9:00 AM Quilt- ing; 9- Noon Lunch Bunch ministry	4 Independ- ence Day	5 9-12 CLM at church	6
7 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Adult Bible Class	8	9 6:00 PM UMW Indoor Picnic	10 9:00 AM Quilting; 9- Noon Lunch Bunch ministry	11 12:00 PM Membership Team	12 9-12 CLM at church	13 7:30 AM United Methodist Men
14 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Adult Bible Class; 6:30 PM Finance and Admin. Meeting	15	16	17 9:00 AM Quilt- ing; 9- Noon Lunch Bunch ministry	18	19 9-12 CLM at church	20
21 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Adult Bible Class	22	23	24 9:00 Am Quilting; 9- Noon Lunch Bunch ministry	25	26 9-12 CLM at church; 10:00 AM Prayer Time	27
28 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Adult Bible Class	29	30	31 9:00 Am Quilt- ing; 9-Noon Lunch Bunch ministry			

## Looking Ahead...

August 2 – 4 Mission U  
 September 8, United Methodist Women Sunday  
 September 22, Bring a Friend Sunday  
 October 12, Chili – Vegetable Soup Supper  
 October 31, Trunk-er Treat  
 November 10, United Methodist Men Sunday  
 November 24, Community Thanksgiving Service  
 November 28, Thanksgiving Day  
 December 7, Parsonage Open House  
 December 24, Christmas Eve Candlelight service

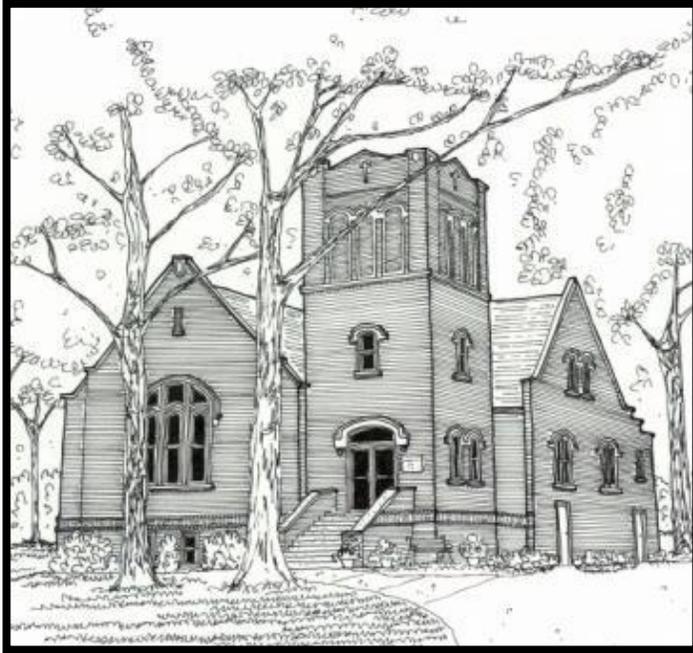
## July Anniversaries

Jeff and Karen Koger                      7/2/1983  
 Michael and Hope McKenzie            7/25/2008

## July Birthdays

Cheryl Beckner	7/6
Kathy Jones	7/6/1952
Barb Lucas	7/6/1954
Dorothy Hendricks	7/7/1936
Doris Lamkey	7/10
Madalyn Sloman	7/10/2006
Shawn Binion	7/12/1980
Don Sutton	7/13/1951
Tracy Scales	7/15/1970
Ron Atkins	7/16/1942
Sharon Stroisch	7/16/1951
Earlene Freeman	7/21/1924
Shelby Dial	7/24/1992
Mary Sims	7/27/1998
David Sutherland	7/27/1988
Pat Upton	7/28/1946

*NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: JULY 21*



## Thank You

This month's Thanks is for the use of the Witness Candle. We have been utilizing this light to express our appreciation of God in our lives for nearly 15 years. It allows us to rejoice together, care together and lift up a need together. This small token of our gratitude gives us opportunity to thank God for his care during the week, appreciate his extravagant love and provisions and in turn anticipate the wonder of the upcoming week. It resembles us releasing a helium balloon of thanksgiving and love to the Comforter and Healer of our souls each week.

Thanks go out for the opportunities to praise and express joy.

## The Lunch Bunch

Good News. Some teachers from the Riverton Elementary School have teamed with our local church to provide meals each Wednesday in July. The lunches will be packed at the church kitchen before taking them to the mobile home park and handing them out to those who have signed up for them and of course to any child that comes along. There will be activities for about an hour each week.

You can come along. You can come and help read stories or play ball with the kids or help in many conceivable manners.

For more details call 217-691-7676 or come and experience the first week with us. We would like to have lots and lots of volunteers. Some facts: there is shade if that is a need of yours; when summer hits, that means that the breakfast and lunch that are typically received at school are no longer available for kids. These families have also been hit by the recent tornado and I am sure this has caused a blow to the budget, as it would for any of those in the path of weather-related destruction.

This LUNCH BUNCH, as we are calling this community effort, is one way we can love our neighbor as ourselves. See you there or please give as you can.

--Ellen Dixon, your Certified Lay Minister.

## The United Methodist Women

will meet: Tuesday, July 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 P.M.

For our annual indoor picnic – chicken and drink furnished; bring a dish to share

Program: Speaker – Nancy Sprague

Hostesses: Rose Hughes & Marj Todd

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

# Church Directory Information

COMPLETE **ONLY** THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION YOU WOULD LIKE LISTED IN THE CHURCH DIRECTORY. **PLEASE PRINT INFORMATION.**

NAME OF MEMBERS OR HOUSEHOLD

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HOME ADDRESS AND/OR SEASONAL ADDRESSES

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MAILING ADDRESS

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EMAIL ADDRESS/ES

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HOME PHONE/ CELL NUMBER/S

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BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARY

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PLEASE RETURN TO RIVERTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 429 EAST LINCOLN.

Riverton First United Methodist  
429 East Lincoln  
Riverton, IL 62561



Address Correction Requested

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WEBSITE: [www.rivertonfirstumc.com](http://www.rivertonfirstumc.com)

***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.*