

September 1, 2013

# The Oaks



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

## Scratchings From the Dixon Pencil

Years ago a preacher named Stan Bailey included this story in his church newsletter. It is a story about a visitor to a heavy-duty grease factory. He said the visitors were ushered into a large room and a tour host introduced them to the company history and the number of employees at work producing the best machine lubricants in the world. They toured the noisy factory, with lots of machinery and wheels whirling, mixing, packaging – incredible activity.

As the tour ended, one of the visitors said, “I didn’t see a shipping department.” The guide responded, “Well, we don’t have a shipping department because it takes all the grease we can make to lubricate our equipment and keep the wheels turning.”

Pastor Bailey concluded: “Friends, the Church is the best lubricated grease factory in all of history. What’s missing is the shipping department. The church does not exist for itself; it exists to bring others to a commitment to Jesus Christ.”

Maybe he is on to something there. Much of what we do is centered on ourselves, without concern for the folks who are not part of our circle. When it comes to music, we want the style we are accustomed to, without thinking about what might appeal to the people who are not yet a part of our fellowship. When we think about worship times, we think about what is convenient for ourselves. We’re used to 9:30 Sunday morning. It gets us out in time for a good brunch at our favorite restaurant, or in time for a family gathering, or ballgame or some weekend project. We seldom think about how we could involve those who work every Sunday morning. Even when we have events like Bring-a-Friend-Sunday, most of us don’t. We either don’t have any friends who aren’t already in church, or are shy about inviting those who aren’t, or we forget about it as soon as we leave the premises Sunday morning, or have good intentions but never get around to acting on them, or something.

But we are good at keeping our own machinery running. We work together on fundraisers like chili suppers and chicken noodle dinners. We serve on committees. Some of us take turns at being ushers or greeters or reading scriptures or even leading the Children’s moments. A few of us even support the Sunday School program. But these things are all about us. They don’t do much to draw others into the church.

Recently we did follow the lead of our Certified Lay Minister and reach out to share some time and food with the residents of the Lincoln Place mobile home park. We noticed how many children there were there and wondered about getting them into Sunday School. We heard a mother say that her children were interested in church, but that she has to work every Sunday. If we can begin now to at least pray about these people we met, and open ourselves up to what God may ask us to do about it, maybe that can be the beginning of a “shipping department” in our own “grease factory.”

Pastor Jonathan Dixon

# RFUMC Calendar – September 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Coffee Fellowship; 10:35 AM Adult Bible Class	2 Labor Day 7:00 PM Board of Trustees	3	4 9:00 AM Quilting; 9-12 Certified Lay Minister at church; 7:00 PM Choir Begins	5	6	7
8 United Methodist Women Sunday 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Coffee Fellowship; 10:35 AM Adult Bible Class; 6:30 PM Finance and Administration Meeting	9	10 7:00 PM United Methodist Women	11 9:00 AM Quilting; 9-12 CLM at church; 2-9 PM Photography for new church directory	12 2-9 PM Photography for new church directory	13	14
15 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Coffee Fellowship; 10:35 Adult Bible Class; News items for next newsletter due	16	17 6:00 PM United Methodist Men	18 9:00 AM Quilting; 7:00 PM Choir Practice	19	20	21
22 Bring a Friend Sunday 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Coffee Fellowship; 10:35 AM Adult Bible Class	23	24	25 9:00 AM Quilting; 9-12 CLM at church; 10:00 AM Prayer Time; 7:00 PM Choir Practice	26	27	28 6:30 – 11:00 AM Pancake Breakfast for Food Pantry at Christian Church
29 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Coffee Fellowship; 10:35 AM Adult Bible Class	30					

## Looking Ahead...

October 12, Chili / Vegetable Soup Supper  
 October 31, Trunk-er Treat  
 November 3, Church Conference  
 November 10, United Methodist Men Sunday  
 November 24, Community Thanksgiving Service  
 December 7, Parsonage Open House  
 December 24, Christmas Eve Candlelight service

*NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 15*

## September Birthdays

Lesta Fitzpatrick	9/2/1983
Debbie Stoneburner	9/2/1958
Richard Blakley	9/4
David Sims	9/7/2000
Jonathan Dixon	9/11/1947
James Rusciollelli	9/17/1940
Erin Martincic	9/20/1978
Lori Payne-Mullett	9/25/1962
Tori Scales	9/26/2003
Mike Lucas	9/29/1955

## Quilting

On September 18, 2013, the ladies will not be quilting. It is designated a day to make school bags for the missions.

If you have nice pieces of fabric that are heavier--like denim---please bring them. Many helping hands will be

needed. People will be needed to cut the materials, press the materials, fold/pin the pieces and sew the seams. **NO EXPERIENCE IS NEEDED!** However, if you have a portable sewing machine, please bring it. For further information, please contact Doris Lamkey at 629 9556.

## August Anniversaries

Michael and Mary Pugh	9/1/1968
Les and Dorothy Hendricks	9/17/1988
Nik and Sharon Caldwell	9/21/1968
Marion and Pat Upton	9/26/1964

## Trustee News

The men have disposed of electronic "garbage" at the church in the village recycle. On that same day, they eliminated the carpet at the parsonage living room and hall. The area has been cleaned, evaluated and the hardwood floors will be refinished in late August.

The next big item on the repair list is the church's lift. The exterior door must be adjusted before the State of Illinois will issue an approval for its operation. There is nothing wrong with the lift itself; the exterior door needs to be moved inward a few inches for the State's certificate.

Also, you must have noticed that two large dead trees have been taken down at the church. Then a lift was rented and some dead branches have been removed at the parsonage area.

## Pancake and Sausage Breakfast

Again, the churches in Riverton are teaming up for a Pancake and Sausage Breakfast fundraiser for the Riverton Food Pantry. This community event was successful last year and the plans are for a great social time and fundraising this year.

One of the bonuses last year was a gathering of people enjoying each other as well as the delicious food. Planning to encourage this social time are being incorporated into the space usage this year also. What fun to see people talking to neighbors and people they may not have seen for a while.

Another bonus was the information regarding the great services that our Riverton Food Pantry gives to our community.

Riverton First United Methodist Church was in charge of the greeters, ticket taking at the door and the information regarding the food pantry and the churches in the community. We will be doing the same responsibilities this year, plus displays of services available to Sangamon County residents and information about the places of worship in Riverton.

**The Pancake and Sausage all you can eat breakfast is SEPTEMBER 28th from 6:30am-11am. at the Riverton Christian Church. Tickets will be \$7 and less for children.**

Flyers and tickets are to be available in the month of September at the churches in the community.

Riverton First United Methodist  
429 East Lincoln  
Riverton, IL 62561



Address Correction Requested

RFUMC PHONE: (217) 629-9721  
E-MAIL: [rvrtnumc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rvrtnumc@sbcglobal.net)  
WEBSITE: [www.rivertonfirstumc.org](http://www.rivertonfirstumc.org)



## The United Methodist Women

Will meet: Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M.

Program: Ellen Dixon  
Hostesses: Ellen Dixon and Robin Compton

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

*United Methodist Women Sunday September 8*

**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.*