

October 1, 2014

The Oaks



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SCRATCHINGS FROM THE DIXON PENCIL

As I sit to write this month's letter I am remembering last month. September 2014 was a good month in the life of our church. We continued our year-long celebration of 140 years of ministry with a great Homecoming Sunday. We had guests from around Illinois and even out-of-state as people came to revisit their roots. Our District Superintendent preached eloquently, and we had a great fellowship meal. A good time indeed!

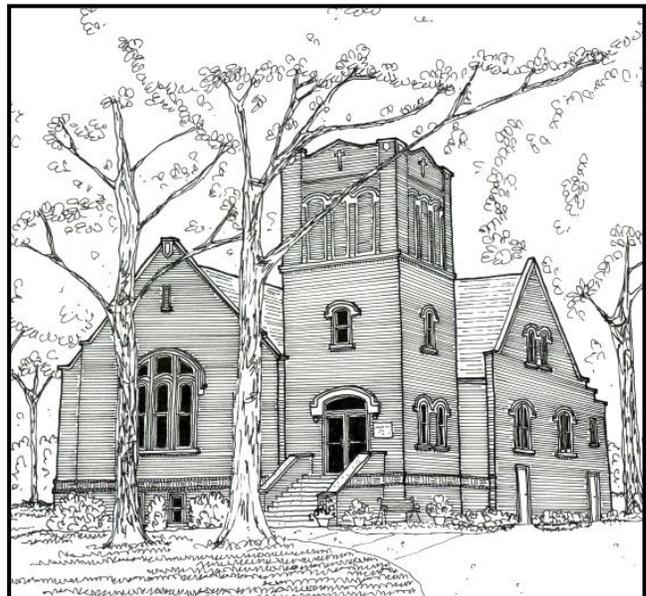
Another important event took place last month as well. We invited a member of the conference staff, the Rev. Michael Crawford, Director of Congregational Development, to meet with us. We initiated the meeting because, in the midst of celebrating the past, we have concerns about our present and future. Our attendance has been down, and money is tight. We want to think about continuing our heritage into the next 140 years as strongly as we can.

The meeting consisted of a frank discussion of our situation, our community and our dreams. No dramatic new program was adopted, but we agreed to unite in prayer, to seek God's will for our church and ministry. One specific step is to designate 8:30 Sunday morning as a time of prayer. The church will be open; I will be here; and anyone who is willing is welcome to come to pray together. If being here in the building at 8:30 AM Sunday is not practical for you, you are invited to pray with us wherever you are. Of course you do not have to limit yourselves to that hour to pray. Pray early and often for our church, that its ministry may prosper now, and even beyond our lifetimes.

We also agreed to meet for another conversation at 3:00 PM Sunday November 2nd, to share inspirations from our thoughts and prayers since September. In the meantime I am preaching a series of sermons from the book of Nehemiah on "Building for the Future." The Adult Bible Class that meets after worship will be using Nehemiah as a study book as well. It will not be just a rehash of the sermon, but a chance to discuss and apply the scriptures.

Finally, I want to suggest some topics to direct our prayers for the month. For the first week of October, including Sunday the 5th, let's pray for our church by praying for our **schools**. We have had contact with some school children through the summer lunch programs the past two years. Pray that the children will be fed spiritually as well as physically, and that we as a church can be part of that feeding. Pray for the teachers, staff and administrators, in the Riverton schools, and in the other districts, and colleges, touched by our congregation.

For the second week of October, including Sunday the 12th, let's pray for our **Trunk-er Treat**. Pray about the weather, about all the preparations going into it, and pray for all the children and families we will have contact with. Pray that we will make a positive impact on them, and find opportunities to point them to Jesus.



The third week, including Sunday the 19th, I ask you to pray for **wellness**. As Jesus was concerned about people's healing and health, pray that we too can see people in our congregation and community touched by healing and wellness – physical, psychological and spiritual. And pray also for those affected by Ebola in Liberia and West Africa.

As we get to the last ten days of the month, including Sunday the 26th and our Trunk-er Treat, I ask you to pray for the events coming up in early November: **elections** in our state; the **follow-up meeting** I mentioned earlier, when we will think together again about building for the future; and our annual **Church Conference**, when we set our church budget and offices for 2015 at 5:00 PM that same day, November 2nd.

This has been a longer letter than usual. Thank you for reading patiently. May God bless us as we think and pray together this month.

Pastor Jonathan Dixon

140th Anniversary: THANKS TO ALL

“I have come so that they may have life, and may have it abundantly.” John 10:10b

Jesus stated that He came for us to have abundant life. I felt this was a fair description of our Homecoming Sunday. He was with us abundantly and gave us great joy.

The things I saw that I wanted to Thank God for were:

1. The tremendously wonderful weather that facilitated the day and movement on the grounds.
2. Thanks to you all who bought the mums and allowed George to have the means to create such lovely flowerbeds.
3. Thanks to all who gave food and support as Lori proceeded with the lunch meal that was enjoyed by all and facilitated the many loving conversations/fellowship.
4. Support from our District with our District Superintendent speaking and all the totes from the conference. Also the coverage in *The Current*, our district newsletter.
5. Thanks everyone for inviting your neighbors and friends.
6. We got 140 likes on Facebook.
7. We got 140+ in attendance when we finished counting those who came for the meal and those who were in service. This is wonderful as all were so welcome.

I in particular enjoyed everyone's creativity and dedication. THANKS

Ellen Dixon

*Editor's Note: Thank *you* so much, Ellen, for all you did to make the anniversary celebration a very special time!*

RFUMC Calendar – October 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 9:00 AM Quilting; 9 – 12 CLM at Church; 6:00 PM Bible Study; 7:00 PM Choir practice	2	3	4
5 8:30 AM Prayer; 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Adult Bible Class; 6:30 PM Budget Meeting	6	7 7:00 PM Trustees	8 9:00 AM Quilting; 9 – 12 CLM at Church; 12:00 PM Membership Committee; 6:00 PM Bible Study; 7:00 PM Choir Practice	9	10	11
12 8:30 AM Prayer; 9:30 AM Wor- ship; 10:30 AM Adult Bible Study; 6:30 PM Finance and Ad- ministration Meeting	13 Columbus Day	14 7:00 PM United Methodist Women	15 9:00 AM Quilting; 9 – 12 CLM at Church; 6:00 PM Bible Study; 7:00 PM Choir Practice	16	17	18 4 – 7 PM Chili/Vegetable Soup Supper
19 8:30 AM Prayer; 9:30 AM Wor- ship; 10:30 AM Coffee Fellow- ship; 10:35 AM Adult Bible Study	20	21 6:00 PM United Methodist Men	22 9:00 AM Quilting; 9 – 12 CLM at Church; 6:00 PM Bible Study; 7:00 PM Choir Practice	23	24	25
26 8:30 AM Prayer; 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Adult Bible Study	27	28	29 9:00 AM Quilting; 9 – 12 CLM at Church; 6:00 PM Bible Study; 7:00 PM Choir Practice	30	31 6 – 7:30 PM Trunk-er Treat	

Looking Ahead...

November 2, 3:00 PM Congregational Meeting;
5:00 PM Church Conference at Williamsville
November 9, United Methodist Men Sunday
November 23, 6:00 PM Community
Thanksgiving Service, Here
November 29, Hanging of the Greens, morning;
Outing to Way of Lights, evening

October Anniversaries

Robert and Sharron Falzone	10/1
Andrew and Lesta Fitzpatrick	10/6/2007
Robert and Rose Hughes	10/28/1961

Chili & Soup Supper

Riverton United Methodist Church

Where: 429 E. Lincoln St.

When: Saturday, Oct. 18, 2014

Time: 4:00 - 6:30 PM

Donation: \$7.00

Chili or soup, Dessert and Drink

Chicken Salad Sandwich

or Hot Dogs Extra

EAT IN OR CARRY OUT

Everyone is Invited to the Riverton United Methodist Church Safe Halloween "Trunk-er-Treat"!!!

Friday, October 31, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.
(Door Prize Drawing at 7:30 p.m.)



Location: Riverton United Methodist
Church,
429 East Lincoln Street.

Overflow parking will
be available at St.
James Catholic
Church. A lighted
path through the
neighborhood will
illuminate the
walkway between the
churches.

In case of rain, the
party WILL be held.
Call the church or see
the church marquee
for the rain location.

This is a **FREE** event, open to the public.
For more information, please contact the church at 629-9721.

Free Candy, Hot Dogs, Drinks, and Chips!

United Methodist Church Resources

These sites may be helpful for those who want to know of opportunities within the United Methodist Church. They provide information that is similar to trainings and meetings on specific educational opportunities.

<http://www.igrc.org/> is the website for the Illinois Great Rivers Conference. There are many areas and initiatives to explore on this webpage; it is easy to navigate and get information.

Also United Media Resources is like a "library" at the conference office just south of Springfield at the Toronto Road Exit. That can be found at the top site or at umrc@igrc.org. Jill Stone is the manager and she is quite helpful. They have lots of material and even have books from the UMW's book list. Checking them out at the conference center is possible or she can send them to you. You only pay the return postage.

The UMW site is <http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/>

Have You Gotten Your Flu Shot This Year?

If you haven't, then it's time to get it done. Less than half of all Americans got a flu shot last year, so U.S. health officials are urging everyone 6 months and older get vaccinated for the coming flu season. Just one-third of adults 18 to 64 -- the age group hit especially hard last flu season-- were vaccinated against flu last year, according to new CDC figures. Also, more than 100 children died from flu-related complications last year.

If you missed the flu clinic at the KC Hall, then it's time to get to your favorite pharmacy, clinic or other sites. There is no need to wait for a doctor's appointment. It normally takes up to 2 weeks for full immunity and Flu season normally runs from October through February, so don't tarry.

Remember that Medicare B pays the full cost of the flu shot. Medicaid and Medicaid Managed Care pays full cost for most, but may charge a small co-pay for some. Most private pay companies pay all or with a small co-pay.

The Public Health Clinic on 2833 South Grand East has walk-in clinics open from 8:30 am to at least 4:00 pm Monday through Friday. They accept Medicare, Medicaid, Aetna, HLNK, Cigna, BCBS, Molina, Health Alliance and others. No excuses, if you need transportation, call me at 629-7559.

Have a healthy winter.

Judy Lafary, RN Parish Nurse for RUMC

October Birthdays

Derek Mann	10/7
James Dial	10/12/1962
George Skaggs	10/12/1945
Rose Cessna	10/13
Nadine Springer	10/13
Evelyn Gandy	10/15/1942
Anna Marie Kresse	10/15/1931
Mary Pugh	10/16/1948
Deborah Rhodes	10/17/1953
John Martincic	10/18/1974
Roger Pfeiffer	10/20/1959
Tyler Sloman	10/20/1982
Vickie Bruce	10/21/1955
Yvonne Mann	10/21
Ryan Pfeiffer	10/21/1993
Jud Baumann	10/27
Samantha Sloman	10/29/1979
Marilyn Rentschler	10/31

Riverton First United Methodist
429 East Lincoln
Riverton, IL 62561



Address Correction Requested

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

United Methodist Women will meet Tuesday, October 14 at 7:00 PM

Program: Bonnie Klaves | Hostesses: Hope McKenzie & Robin Compton

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

CHILI SUPPER: OCTOBER 18

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.*