

February 1, 2015

The Oaks



T

SCRATCHINGS FROM THE DIXON PENCIL

February is a short month, but it has several significant days in it this year. Among them are Valentine's Day, Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday. I have some thoughts about each one.

St. Valentine's Day comes on the 14th, of course. According to tradition it is named after a priest in the area of Rome, Italy in the 3rd Century AD. The Roman emperor at the time, Claudius II, was a persecutor of Christians. He was also a strong military leader who was having trouble recruiting enough soldiers into the army. Their reluctance to enlist, Claudius concluded, was their fear that military life would deprive them of a normal life of marriage and family. Or those already married didn't want to leave their families. Since marriage seemed to be the problem, Claudius' solution was to outlaw marriage.

Marriage, however, was one of the sacraments of the Church. So a faithful priest named Valentius, or Valentine as we say in English, continued to perform secret weddings for couples who wished to be married. Eventually he was caught and arrested. Legend has it that while he was imprisoned Valentine prayed for a Roman official's daughter who was blind. She received her sight, and apparently fell in love with Valentine. (Love at first sight!) Valentine was later sentenced to a three-part execution: beating, stoning and beheading. The legend says that his last words were a note to the young lady (whose name is not even given in the versions of the legend I found). The note was reportedly signed "from your Valentine." Hence the tradition of love notes called Valentines. So Valentine is a priest, a martyr, a saint, and a model of dedication to Christian teachings and practice in spite of persecution. And it's an excuse to be romantic.

Shrove Tuesday is the last day before the beginning of Lent. Historically it was day to get rid of all the signs of luxury, like fat and sweets, before the austerity of Lent. A good way to do that was to make dishes like pancakes. The day became known as Pancake Day in some places. Other places took the indulgence of those "luxury" items, including alcohol, a little farther and made the day a time of wild partying. Hence the Mardi Gras (French for Fat Tuesday) tradition of drunken revelry on the day before Lent.

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent. It is 40 days, plus Sundays, before Easter. Easter comes on April 5 this year, so Ash Wednesday is February 18. The tradition is to have a service including imposition of ashes on the forehead as a sign of repentance of this day. We will do that at the church at 7 PM. Then we will observe Lent together through the rest of February, all of March, right up to Easter Sunday.

I will save my other thoughts about Lent for next month. I have already filled my allotted space for this time.

God bless you!
Pastor Jonathan Dixon

RFUMC Calendar – February 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Adult Bible Class; 3:00 PM Audit Meeting	2	3 7:00 PM Trustees	4 9:00 AM Quilting; 6:00 PM Bible Study	5	6	7 6:00 PM Family Valentine Dinner
8 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Adult Bible Class; 6:30 PM Finance and Administration	9	10 7:00 PM United Methodist Women	11 9:00 AM Quilting; 6:00 PM Bible Study; 7:00 PM Choir Practice	12 Lincoln's Birthday	13	14 Valentine's Day
15 Transfiguration Sunday 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Adult Bible Class	16	17 Shrove Tuesday 6:00 PM United Methodist Men	18 Ash Wednesday 9:00 AM Quilting; 7:00 PM Service of Ashes	19	20	21
22 First Sunday of Lent 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Adult Bible Class	23	24	25 9:00 AM Quilting; 6:00 PM Bible Study; 7:00 PM Choir Practice	26	27	28

Looking Ahead...

March 7, Chili Supper
 March 17, U M Men's Annual Meeting
 March 29, Palm/Passion Sunday
 April 3, Good Friday
 April 5, Easter Sunday
 May 6, Mother – Child Banquet
 May 10, Mother's Day
 June 21, Father's Day

February Anniversaries

Ron and Cheryl Atkins	2/11/1967
Butch and Pat Baker	2/14
Jerry and Judy McCullough	2/18/1970
Roger and Melissa Pfeiffer	2/27/1988

February Birthdays

Keaton Martincic	2/4/2008
Les Hendricks	2/8/1931
Mel Allison	2/11/1947
Roberta Bernahl	2/11/1929
Aden Byers	2/14/2005
Melissa Pantier	2/16/1962
David Beckner	2/17
Jeri Sucech	2/19/1945
Devan Martincic	2/22/2001
Carly Shank	2/ 24
Katie Sutton	2/24/1979
Kim Rusciolelli	2/26/1954
Taylor Binion	2/28/2009

Trustee News

The trustees have several small projects on the waiting list for warmer weather. Some of these projects include repairing/painting the parsonage doors; checking over the parking lot for cracks and problems; getting rid of the layers of leaves (feel free to take all the leaves you might need!); updating the Memorial Garden area; exterior caulking the upstairs church windows.

It is still on the trustees list to update the parsonage basement. A final design has not been laid out on paper, but many thoughts and ideas are on the table.

United Methodist Women

WILL MEET: February 10, 7 PM

PROGRAM: Marsha Sutton

HOSTESSES: Eileen Kendle and Darlene Schermerhorn

We welcome all the ladies in the church.

Come see us in the fellowship hall

Scrip News

In reviewing the past records of the SCRIP Program, it was discovered that by YOU BUYING gift cards for many uses in your personal life, this program has paid a total of \$20,350.00 directly on the church's loan principal!!!!!!

This program was begun in August 2005 and the first loan principal payment was made in 2006. Every year since you have accumulated cash for a principal payment. It is amazing what this congregation has accomplished. You should all congratulate yourselves.

Now with this piece of information.....don't forget to order those gift cards for use in your everyday needs at the grocery store, drug store, restaurant, clothing, appliances, etc., etc. Or for Valentine's Day; or for Easter gifts; Graduation gifts; shower gifts; wedding gifts; etc., etc.

There is an order day the first and third Sunday of each month; then the pickup date is the second and fourth Sunday of each month. See Doris Lamkey to place your order. If you do not understand how this program works, please ask Doris or Judy McCullough for an explanation.



2015 CHURCH OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Trustees: Judy McCullough, Lori Payne-Mullett, Don Sutton [2017]

Continuing Members: Ron Armintrout, Nik Caldwell, Tom Pantier [2016]

Mel Allison, Harold Shepherdson, George Skaggs [2015]

Staff/Parish Relations: Erin Martincic, Carly Shank, Lesta Fitzpatrick [2017]

Continuing Members: Cheryl Allison, Nik Caldwell, Barb Lucas [2016]

Rick Carr, Mary Pugh, Marsha Sutton [2015]

Ex Officio: Lori Payne-Mullett

Nominations: Rick Carr, Hope McKenzie, Don Sutton [2017] [Jonathan Dixon]

Continuing Members: Sharon Caldwell, Nancy Hermes, Sharon Stroisch [2016]

Lisa Dungey, Janet Gowin, Barbara Rhodes [2015]

Worship: Sharon Caldwell, Ellen Dixon, Carly Shank, Patsy Skaggs

Hospitality: Sharon Caldwell, Rose Hughes, Kathy Jones, Karen Koger, Sharon Stroisch

Lori Payne-Mullett, Barbara Rhodes

Offering Counters: Sharon Caldwell, Rick Carr, John Martincic, Tom Pantier

Education: Nadine Mackenzie (Chair), Hope McKenzie (VBS)

Media: Ron Armintrout, Kim Beckey, Nik Caldwell, Andrew Fitzpatrick, Tom Pantier,
Carly Shank

Prayer: Ellen Dixon, Dot Hendricks, Barbara Lucas, Lori Payne-Mullett

Stewardship: Ron Armintrout, Ellen Dixon, Rose Hughes, Tom Pantier

Special Events Coordinator: Melissa Pantier

Treasurer: Debbie Stoneburner

Financial Secretary: Tom Pantier

Lay Leader:

Lay Member of Annual Conference: Lori Payne-Mullett; Alternate: Ellen Dixon

UMW President: Kim Beckey

UMM President: George Skaggs

Parish Nurse: Judy Lafary

RFUMC 2015 Budget

Area 1	Ministry to People	Annual	Monthly	Weekly
11	Transient Help	\$ 100.00	\$ 8.33	\$ 1.92
12	Hospitality and Growth	\$ 500.00	\$ 41.67	\$ 9.62
13	Education	\$ 800.00	\$ 66.67	\$ 15.38
14	VBS	\$ 700.00	\$ 58.33	\$ 13.46
15	Worship	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 125.00	\$ 28.85
16	Music	\$ 250.00	\$ 20.83	\$ 4.81
17	Youth	\$ 100.00	\$ 8.33	\$ 1.92
Area 2	Ministry of Administration	Annual	Monthly	Weekly
20	Finance Committee	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 145.83	\$ 33.65
21	Office Expense	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 416.67	\$ 96.15
22a	Custodial Supplies	\$ 200.00	\$ 16.67	\$ 3.85
23	Insurance	\$ 4,520.00	\$ 376.67	\$ 86.92
25	Utilities (elec., gas, water,phone)	\$ 9,500.00	\$ 791.67	\$ 182.69
27	Annual Conference Expense	\$ 750.00	\$ 62.50	\$ 14.42
28	Capital Improvements	\$ 11,795.76	\$ 982.98	\$ 226.84
Area 3	Ministry of Our Staff	Annual	Monthly	Weekly
30	Clergy Stipend (includes Health Insurance Adj = 12,000.00)	\$ 61,211.00	\$ 5,100.92	\$ 1,177.13
30b	Pastors Professional Expense	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 83.33	\$ 19.23
30c	Pastoral Cable, Phone	\$ 1,380.00	\$ 115.00	\$ 26.54
31	Pastors Travel	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 57.69
32	Pastors Continuing Education	\$ 500.00	\$ 41.67	\$ 9.62
33	Organist @ \$65.00/service	\$ 3,640.00	\$ 303.33	\$ 70.00
35	FICA * Withholding	\$ 500.00	\$ 41.67	\$ 9.62
36	Nursery Care @ \$20.00/service	\$ 1,120.00	\$ 93.33	\$ 21.54
37	Guest Speakers	\$ 300.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 5.77
38	Custodial Salary @ \$45.00/wk	\$ 2,340.00	\$ 195.00	\$ 45.00
39	Workers Compensation	\$ 542.00	\$ 45.17	\$ 10.42
Area 4	Connectional Ministry	Annual	Monthly	Weekly
40	Pension	\$ 10,230.83	\$ 852.57	\$ 196.75
41	Clergy Support and Administration	\$ 10,296.00	\$ 858.00	\$ 198.00
42	Benevolences / Connectional Ministries	\$ 6,036.00	\$ 503.00	\$ 116.08
44	Medical Insurance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
45	Missionary Support	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 83.33	\$ 19.23
Total	Summary of All Areas	Annual	Monthly	Weekly
Area 1	Ministry to People	\$ 3,950.00	\$ 329.17	\$ 75.96
Area 2	Ministry of Administration	\$ 33,515.76	\$ 2,792.98	\$ 644.53
Area 3	Ministry of Our Staff	\$ 75,533.00	\$ 6,294.42	\$ 1,452.56
Area 4	Connectional Ministry	\$ 27,562.83	\$ 2,296.90	\$ 530.05
Total	Total	\$ 140,561.59	\$ 11,713.47	\$ 2,703.11

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Riverton, IL 62561



Address Correction Requested

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E-MAIL: rvtnumc@sbcglobal.net
WEBSITE: www.rivertonfirstumc.org

Riverton First United Methodist Church

***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.*