

July 1, 2015

The Oaks



Pastor's Corner

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Do you remember the story of the Israelites entering the Promised Land in Joshua 3?

Joshua 3:1-5 ¹ Early in the morning Joshua rose and set out from Shittim with all the Israelites, and they came to the Jordan. They camped there before crossing over. ² At the end of three days the officers went through the camp ³ and commanded the people, "When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God being carried by the levitical priests, then you shall set out from your place. Follow it, ⁴ so that you may know the way you should go, for you have not passed this way before. Yet there shall be a space between you and it, a distance of about two thousand cubits; do not come any nearer to it." ⁵ Then Joshua said to the people, "Sanctify yourselves; for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you." (NRSV).

For forty years they had wandered in the desert with Moses leading them. Can you imagine their anxiety and their fear? Their leader was gone; they were entering a new land, that they did not know; and they were going to have to fight to take the land. They were unsure of so much, but God had given them a new leader, Joshua. "Then Joshua said to the people, 'Sanctify yourselves; for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you.'"

Understand something: Joshua was just as anxious and fearful as the people were. He was not sure that the people would want to follow him; he was entering a land that he did not know; he would have to lead the battles to win the land. "Then Joshua said to the people, 'Sanctify yourselves; for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you.'"

The one thing that Joshua had going for him was that he knew that it was God that was going with them; that God would be their true leader; and that God would fight their battles with them. Did Joshua and the Israelites always get it right? No, they sometimes made mistakes, but God was with them and they made it into the Promised Land and eventually it became their land.

We are entering new territory; I am your new Pastor; we are all unsure of what the future holds. "Then Joshua said to the people, 'Sanctify yourselves; for tomorrow **the LORD will do wonders among you.**'" I believe that God will do wonders among you. I am looking forward to being your Pastor. It was a joy for me to meet and greet many of you on Sunday.

My first two Sundays I will be sharing my story of who I am and how I became a Pastor. My first four sermons will be;

He Ran To Me (Luke 15);
I Am Is Calling (Exodus 3, Luke 24);
God Uses Scoundrels (Genesis 25, Genesis 27);
Searching For Treasure (Matthew 13).

I usually take Mondays as my day of Sabbath, but I might need to adjust that to fit the schedule of the Riverton Church so if it changes I will let you know. We all need our Sabbath time and I guard mine, but I am always available in an emergency (hospitalization, funeral, death, etc.). If you need to reach me at any time my new phone number is (217) 622-2057.

In Christ's service,

Pastor John

Trustee Updates

The trustee men have been working overtime at the parsonage. We have had a very nice bathroom in the downstairs for years, but due to water leakage, it needed to be remodeled. Approximately two years ago, work was done outside to eliminate the water seepage problems and so far, so good. The UMWomen donated money for this updating project several months ago.

So with the knowledge that funds were available to pay for the materials, the men started walling in the staircase, installing solid railings, building walls to enclose an area for the utility room. Cabinets from the old church kitchen were saved and being installed in this new utility room. A new utility sink was donated and is being installed also. Lighting has been installed along with an updated electrical box. The old bath walls have been taken down and hopefully the updated bath will be completed soon. The utility area still has some plumbing work to be finished and then the washer and dryer will be reconnected.

The parsonage was completely cleaned upstairs. Had the home sprayed for any bugs. Appliances cleaned. Windows washed. New covering for the living room window. Exterior doors repaired and locks fixed.

Whew! I'm tired just talking about what all those men have been doing! A special thank you to their wives for sparing the men to come work at the parsonage. Hopefully this work will be done soon and our new minister will have the opportunity to use the new utility and bath areas in the downstairs.

Scrip News

WHAT A GREAT JOB!!!! When the loan payment was paid at the end of June, this program paid an additional \$1,000.00 on the principal. Thank you to each person who has used the gift cards for the past several months to help acquire the extra funds.

Here it is July already. Please use those gift cards for gifts, for kids going to college, for vacations, for groceries, for entertainment.....well, you get the message. Just a simple thanks for your participation.

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 – July 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 9:00 AM Quilters	2	3	4
5 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Fellowship; 10:35 AM Adult Sunday School	6	7 7:00 PM Trustees	8 9:00 AM Quilters	9	10	11
12 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Adult Sun- day School	13	14 7:00 PM United Methodist Women	15 9:00 AM Quilters	16	17	18
19 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Adult Sun- day School	20	21 6:00 PM United Methodist Men	22 9:00 AM Quilters	23	24	25
Vacation Bible School – 5:30-8:30 PM						
26 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Adult Sun- day School	27	28	29 9:00 AM Quilters	30	31	



Next newsletter deadline: July 19

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
Casey Tester 7/12/1984
Don Sutton 7/13/1951
Tracy Scales 7/15/1970
Ron Atkins 7/16/1942
Sharon Stroisch 7/16
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

A Note from Ellen Dixon

My dear Friends,

Thank you for the wonderful potluck send off last Sunday the 14th. It was such a treasured time and I am so grateful.

I also have told many of you, that I plan an Open House at 1427 N. Franklin Ave in Springfield. This is for a dedication of the home to be used in God's work. I have spoken to Pastor John about a tentative date of August 8th from 4-7. He is checking the church calendar to see if that will work.

I would love to have you stop by and enjoy some food and fellowship. I will let you know for sure of the date and the specific time of the dedication segment of the Open House.

Thanks again for the many years we have shared so wonderfully. Many wonderful memories. Much love and oodles of fun. God bless.

Ellen Dixon 691-7676

2015 Vacation Bible School

July 19 – 24, 2015, 5:30 – 8:30 PM

St. James Catholic Church & Riverton United Methodist Church

Welcome to Bible Blast to the Past— where kids discover God's everlasting love!

Get ready to travel on a life-changing adventure that leads kids in search of a love that lasts forever! At Bible Blast to the Past, kids will eat dinner before time travel begins. Then they will participate in the large group excitement of Blast to the Past Bash, experience God's Word at Timeless Truth Tent, discover ancient arts and facts through science and crafts at Discovery Ruins, and enjoy games at Backtrack Bazaar.

Secure your child's place on the journey! VBS is open to all children of our community entering grades PK – 8th Grade. A Closing Program will be held at 6:30 PM on Friday, July 24th at the Riverton United Methodist Church.



If you would like more information or to become a volunteer, please contact Hope McKenzie, (217) 416-7892 or soccermom859@comcast.net or Nadine Mackenzie, (217) 416-0890 or nadinemack421@gmail.com

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Quilting News

The ladies are quilting a beautiful quilt for a member of our church at the present time. It is always a joy to have the opportunity to finish someone's designed quilt top. They have a couple of quilt tops waiting to be put in the frames to be finished. More quilters are definitely needed. Perhaps the new Minister will be a quilter!

The quilt group that meets at our church would like to thank everyone who helped with the last quilt project. That quilt has been given to Marion Upton.....what a lucky man! The proceeds from that quilt will help the quilt ladies pay for a project at this church.

United Methodist Women

WILL MEET: Tuesday, July 14, 7:00 PM

Program: Picnic

Hostesses: Rose Hughes, Marj Todd

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