



THE OAKS



Riverton First United Methodist Church

MARCH 1, 2009

WHY I BELIEVE IN SUNDAY SCHOOL

Part 2



I believe in Christian Education in general and Sunday School in particular because it constitutes opportunity for spiritual growth and practice, while also providing fellowship and relationship building. This month I want to share a recent episode in the Teen Sunday School Class.

The lesson that week came from Mark 14:43-51, about the betrayal and arrest of Jesus shortly before his crucifixion. The class observed that Jesus' courage in facing arrest and death came through replacing his fear with confidence in God. The application of the lesson was to think about letting their own fears be replaced by confidence in God's plan for their lives.

Working anonymously, they listed some of their own fears: heights, snakes, clowns, roller coasters, flying, people close to them dying, asthma attacks while alone, burning alive, having kids, haunted houses, scary movies, loose hair in the swimming pool, and dying. These are real fears, many of them shared by those of us who are not teenagers as well.

At the end of the lesson the class came up with their own definitions of courage, again working anonymously.

Some of them are listed here:

1. Stepping out of your comfort zone and doing or standing up for what you believe
2. The act of being brave; intrepid; showing no fear
3. Having the bravery to do a task
4. Being willing to do or be near what you fear
5. Having the will to do something without fear of being persecuted
6. Being brave in the face of a hopeless situation in which everyone else runs away
7. To believe in yourself and do brave things

These thoughts are both practical and profound. The thing I like most is that, unlike public school and many other settings the teens experience, in Sunday School, these things were discussed in specific relationship to the sacrificial courage modeled by Jesus Christ, who had complete confidence in his heavenly Father's plan while facing his terrifying circumstances. These are lessons that will serve the teens, and all the rest of us, well throughout all of our lives. Thank you, Sunday school teachers!

Pastor Jonathan Dixon

LOOK WHO HAS A NEW FACE ON THE INTERNET

If you have not looked at our church website lately, you need to check it out. Ralph Shank has taken over as the new Webmaster, and has made it very attractive and informative.

Our sincere thanks to Ralph for taking on this very important role. Look for more content in the future; and now you can even find this newsletter online before it goes to press!



Come visit us at:

www.rivertonfirstumc.org

Plans for the **March UMW** are to go out to supper and have the meeting at that site.

So--

Come and eat supper with the United Methodist Women at Parkway Café.

We have reserved the back dining area for 6:30 PM.

Meet us there on March 10th at 2715 North Dirksen Ave.

The specials on Tuesday are Monterey Chicken and Homemade Meatloaf.

We look forward to seeing you there!





LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES

During Lent we try to exercise spiritual disciplines to draw close to God and prepare for the Easter celebration. One such activity will be a weeknight Bible study. Pastor Dixon will lead it on Wednesdays at 6:00 PM before the choir practices at seven, beginning March 4.

Pastor Dixon will also preach a series of sermons during Lent in our regular morning worship. They will address the five practices of fruitful congregations, based on the book of that name by Bishop Robert Schnase. These practices are part of the nine ideas for 2009 of which he wrote in the January newsletter.

Our church belongs to a group of similar United Methodist churches in the Springfield area called the Otterbein Cluster. The cluster will hold special joint services at 6:00 PM during Lent. The first service will be at Jerome UMC March 1. Our bishop, the Rev. Gregory Palmer will speak. The March 8 service will be at Asbury UMC. On March 15 we will host the cluster here at Riverton. March 22 will be at Kumler UMC. On March 29 we, Riverton UMC, have a prior commitment to participate in a community singing celebration here in town at Riverton Christian Church. The special Palm Sunday will be jazz worship at Grace UMC at 4 o'clock.

Enclosed in this newsletter is one more participation opportunity, a Lenten offering envelope. Please prayerfully consider making a sacrificial gift to the ministry of Christ through the church this season. We are struggling to meet our budget this year, but we hope to continue all our ministries as God provides the means through his people.

SCRIPTURE SEEKERS' SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS



The Scripture Seekers' Sunday School Class has been studying God's committed followers of the past. These have included men and women from the Bible, such as Mary, Elizabeth, John the Baptist, Rahab, Nathan, and Isaiah, and considering our own commitment. The last lesson of the Winter quarter was Isaiah, who answered God by saying, "Here am I; send me!"

We urge any adult in the church who wishes to strengthen his or her faith through Bible lessons and discussion with others, to join us for class each Sunday. We use the "Adult Bible Studies" from Cokesbury as our resource. We begin our Spring quarter on Sunday, March 1, exploring the creative nature of Christ as it affects human life. Scripture sources will be from Ezekiel, Luke, Acts, and Ephesians. We meet immediately after the worship hour and dismiss by 11:30 AM – in plenty of time for lunch!!



United Methodist Men

Aluminum Can Collection Program



The United Methodist Men are sponsoring an aluminum can collection drive. Proceeds will go to assist the Riverton Food Pantry. You can drop your aluminum cans off at the Parsonage garage. A barrel will be available to deposit your cans. For bulk pickups please contact Dave Bumgardner at 629-8799.





MARCH



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 First Sunday of Lent 9:30 AM Worship 6:30 PM Youth group	2 7:00 PM Trustees Meeting	3	4 7:00 PM Choir Practice	5	6 Forged in the Fire, Evangelism Training at Pawnee UMC	7 3:00 to 7:00 pm Chili Supper Forged in the Fire, Evangelism Training at Pawnee UMC
8 Lent 2:00 AM Daylight Savings Time Begins 9:30 AM Worship 6:30 PM Finance Comm. 7:15 PM Administrative Council	9	10 7:00 PM United Methodist Women	11 6:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Choir Practice	12	13	14 7:30 AM United Methodist Men
15 Lent 9:30 AM Worship 5:30 Inner City Mission 6:30 PM Youth group; Newsletter Deadline	16	17 St. Patrick's Day 	18 6:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Choir Practice	19	20	21 Iron Shapes Iron; A Men's Gathering at Springfield First UMC;
22 Lent 9:30 AM Worship Baptism In Worship	23	24	25 6:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Choir Practice	26	27	28
29 Lent 9:30 AM Worship 6:00 PM Community Singing Celebration at Riverton Christian Church	30	31				



Chili and Soup Supper



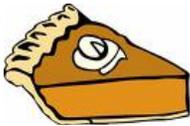
**Saturday, March 7, 2009
3:00 to 7:00 pm**

Riverton United Methodist Church
429 East Lincoln Street

Donation \$6.50

Dinner includes Bowl of Chili or Vegetable Soup, Drink and a Dessert. Chicken Salad or Hot Dog Extra.

EAT IN OR CARRY OUT



Riverton United Methodist Church Financial Concerns

In the first two months of 2009 we have not been able to meet all our financial obligations. The big items, like utilities and loan payments, were met, but some smaller ones, like for supplies from Cokesbury and CDS, were not paid in a timely manner. The things we have not been able to pay at all are our apportionments to the conference and denomination for January and February. We need to catch up on all obligations, and pay bills on time. Please make this a matter of prayerful consideration, and remember the envelope inserted in this newsletter.

— Finance Committee

SCRIP NEWS



???HOW DOES THE PROGRAM WORK???

On the first and third Sunday of each month, an order sheet is inserted in the bulletin. You select the cards you can use, add the total, write a check for the face value of the cards, and give the order sheet and check/money to Doris Lamkey. The order is placed that evening. The cards arrive later that week, sorted with the order sheets (to be sure that each order is entirely complete), given to you the following Sunday, to be used by you for the full face value of the gift card. In the meantime, the store you bought a gift card for, immediately donates a percentage directly to our church. There is no cost to you and the church makes a profit to be applied directly to the principle of the loan. Should you have any questions about this program, please feel free to contact Judy McCullough. We look forward to your SCRIP order as soon as possible.

SCRIP CALENDAR

SCRIP - ORDER DAY	SCRIP - PICK-UP DAY
March 1, 2009	March 8, 2009
March 15, 2009	March 22, 2009
April 5, 2009	April 12, 2009
April 19, 2009	April 26, 2009



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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

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THE OAKS

Deadline for next issue is
Sunday, **March 15, 2008**
E-mail articles to
newsletter@rivertonfirstumc.org



Looking Ahead

- March 1, First Sunday of Lent
- March 7, Chili Supper;
- March 8, Daylight Saving Time begins
- March 21 Men's Gathering at Springfield 1st UMC, Iron Shapes Iron
- March 29, 6 PM Community Sing (music and fellowship with all Riverton churches)
- April 5 Palm Sunday
- April 10 Good Friday service with Baptists, at our church
- April 12 Easter Sunday
 - 7 AM Sunrise Service with Baptists, here
 - 8 AM Fellowship Breakfast, here
 - 9:30 Easter Worship
- April 25 Chicken Noodle Dinner
- May 6 Mother-Child Dinner
- May 10 Mothers Day
- May 25 Memorial Day
- June 3-6 Annual Conference at Peoria Convention Center
- June 21 Fathers Day
- September 13 United Methodist Women Sunday
- October 24 Chili Supper
- October 31 Trunk-er Treat
- November 8 United Methodist Men Sunday
- November 22 Community Thanksgiving Service

10:30 Special Sunday School Plans

