



THE OAKS



Riverton First United Methodist Church

APRIL 1, 2009



AN EASTER STORY

I have not seen it with my own eyes, but I am told that in Henderson County, in northeast Texas, there stands a state historical marker with an account of one William Richardson. It reads, "In 1855 William Richardson and his brother settled in the place that is now called Athens, Texas. He brought with him 14 children and 18 slaves . . ." The marker goes on to list by name the children and slaves of Mr. Richardson. (What about his wife? I don't know. If I ever get down that way to see this in person, I will definitely check on whether his wife has a name.) Anyway, among the slaves listed appears the name "Easter." That's right, a slave named Easter. I presume it was a female. We have no other information about this particular individual, no formal biography, genealogy or photograph. But we do know this. In 1855, on the Texas frontier lived a black slave bearing the name Easter.

I would like to have met Easter, or even more, her mother. She lived and bore her child in slavery, without freedom, without autonomy. She lacked the dignity of self-determination, but had learned enough of Christianity to name a child Easter. She must have known of the resurrection hope and power of God. Somehow she knew that she and her daughter, though simply regarded

as property by their master, were still of great value to God the Creator. Perhaps she bore deep within her the hope that someday she and her little girl might actually escape the tomb of slavery, into a resurrection life of freedom as human persons, not just chattels.

In a sense that name, Easter, would be provisional for the next ten years back in 1855. In the meantime would come secession of Texas from the union and the Civil War. But then came emancipation, proclaimed by President Lincoln and confirmed by Lee's surrender and dissolution of the Confederacy. When emancipation came, the slave named Easter had been a slave all her life. But sudden freedom would not easily erase the force of having experienced the world through the eyes of bondage all those years. But we can hope that as a slave newly freed in a country newly reunited, Easter would grow into her name. She would grow into the full destiny intended for her by God from her birth, to know the joy of Easter in its fullest and most palpable ways.

The new birth of Easter comes slowly, but also powerfully. And nothing is the same after Easter. May you know resurrection hope and Easter joy this season, and for years to come.

(Adapted from Rev. McAllister-Wilson and *Circuit Rider*)

Pastor Jonathan Dixon

Activities being sponsored by the Christian Education Department

Easter Egg Hunt



The Easter Egg Hunt will happen after the 9:30 Easter Worship. The children participating in the hunt will meet in the Fellowship Hall for a lesson while the eggs are being put out. The hunt will take place about 11:00 a.m.

Card Shower Easter Basket

The card shower Easter baskets will be for The Blakely's, June Hallford, Frances Kruthapt and The Morris'. These will then be delivered to their homes.





PRAYER



WHAT A PRIVILEGE TO BRING OUR LIVES BEFORE OUR LOVING HEAVENLY FATHER AND ASK FOR HIS STRENGTH, JOY AND COMFORT. SHARING OUR THOUGHTS WITH HIM IS SUCH A TIME OF ENCOURAGEMENT AS WE BASK IN HIS LOVE FOR US AND HIS ENJOYMENT OF US AS HIS SHEEP. HE IS THE GOOD SHEPHERD. IT IS WITH GREAT JOY THAT HE MEETS TO TALK WITH US.

IF YOU FEEL YOU ARE UNABLE TO MEET WITH GOD THEN CONSIDER THESE ABC'S:

A - ADMIT AND TURN FROM YOUR SIN.

B - BELIEVE THAT JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS FOR YOUR SIN.

C - CONFESS JESUS AS YOUR LORD AND SAVIOR.

GOD WANTS TO MEET YOU WHERE YOU ARE AND ENCOURAGE YOU AND SHEPHERD YOU IN YOUR LIFE WITH HIM.

ELLEN DIXON YOUR LAY SPEAKER



Riverton United Methodist Women

You are welcome to come to the April Meeting of the United Methodist Women.

When: Tuesday April 14th 7:00 PM

Where: Fellowship Hall at the Church

What: World Thank Offering-Learn of the Missions of UMW around the world.

WHY: The World Thank Offering is and has been for many decades an opportunity for personal Thanksgiving and learning of mission outreach.

Through the years, mission has been the main focus of the members of United Methodist Women and its predecessor organizations. Being in mission is sharing our lives and gifts with others that all may be whole persons through Jesus Christ. Mission is creating new persons and a new society as we do away with those things that create barriers or cause separation. It is working to eliminate racism, and sexism, and loneliness. Mission is Christ's challenge to us to bring the possibility for food, shelter and fulfillment to all of humanity.

Through Thank Offering contributions mission projects are supported in all 50 states and in almost 100 countries. These projects vary from support to schools, hospitals and clinics, day care centers and homes for senior citizens to educational training courses to prevent soil erosion, leadership development, sewing and nutritional courses, and medical training. The number of persons reached by this type of caring and sharing is almost incalculable.

Who: Program: Nadine Springer

Hostesses: Roberta Bernahl, Anna Marie Kresse, Patsy Skaggs and Nadine Springer



April 12—There will be an Easter Egg Hunt for the students at the church and in the yard (weather permitting).

June – the United Methodist Men will be teaching the classes so our Educators can have a break time. Thanks to our Men!!!!

Two Sundays in June there will be special classes for the teachers and others who wish to come. Mr. Ken Runkle will be our guest teacher on the Gifts of the Spirit. The specific dates and other topics will be announced soon.

The theme of the Christian Education this calendar year is **Love Your Neighbor**. Special projects are being done and considered by the classes.

June 14th through the 18th is the **Vacation Bible School** that we team up with the St. James Catholic Church. This will be in the evening with the usual format of suppers at St. James before the beginning of the evening activities. It is a Jungle theme, so be putting these dates on your calendar and think of how you want to contribute to this time for the children and youth of our towns. Contact Barb Lucas if you have ideas or want to volunteer.

Ellen Dixon- Christian Education Director



United Methodist Men

POTATO DROP

On March 28 the Sangamon River District United Methodist Men held a Potato Drop. This is a program by which local churches can receive bags of potatoes for distribution to the hungry. The Society of St. Andrew (SSA) provides the potato bags. This is an ecumenical, international coalition of Christians who glean fields and work with food processing plants to take the excess or culled fresh food products that would otherwise go to waste, and relay it to places where it can feed hungry people. On this particular day SAS was distributing potatoes in Central Illinois. The District UMM arranged for them to make potato drops in Springfield and Decatur. David Bumgardner went as a representative of our church's men's group to pick up potatoes at the Midwest Mission Distribution Center to bring back here. He and his wife Paulette brought back 200 pounds of potatoes for the Riverton Food Pantry and another 100 for the Tri-City Food Pantry in Mechanicsburg. Other churches and pantries also pick up potatoes; so many families throughout the area will be able to have fresh potatoes to eat.

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 principal 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
April 5, 2009	April 12, 2009
April 19, 2009	April 26, 2009
May 3, 2009	May 10, 2009
May 17, 2009	May 24, 2009

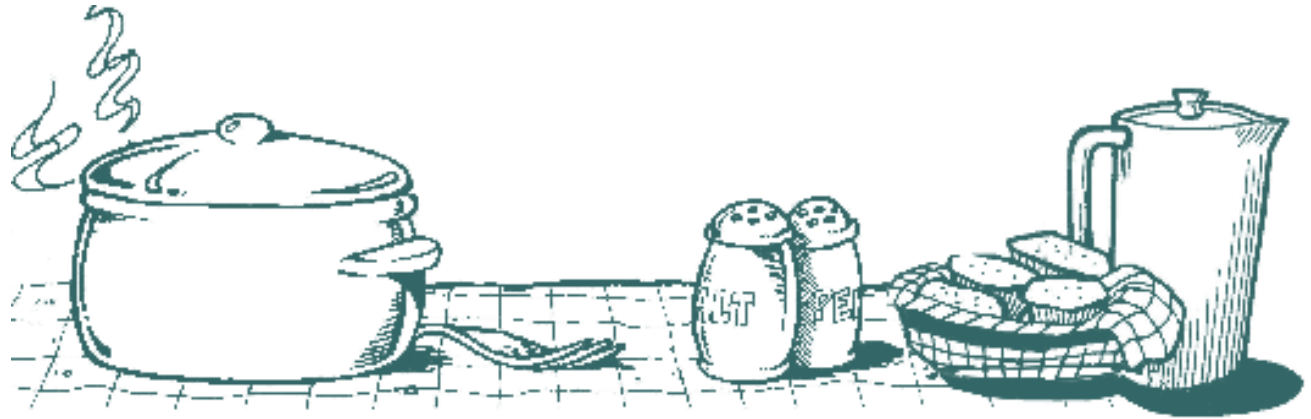


APRIL 2009



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6 PM Lenten Bible Study 7 PM Choir Practice  April Fools Day	2	3	4 3 PM Forgas – Carter Wedding
5 Palm Sunday 9:30 Worship 10:30 Sunday School 11:30 Youth Group	6 7 PM Board of Trustees	7	8 6 PM Bible Study 7 PM Choir Practice	9	10 Good Friday 7 PM Service at Riverton first Baptist Church	11 7:30 AM United Methodist Men
12 Easter Sunday 7:00 AM Sunrise Service at our Church 8:00 AM Fellowship Breakfast with Baptist; here 9:30 AM Easter Worship 10:00 Sunday School including Easter Egg Hunt for Children	13 6:30 PM Finance Committee 7:45 PM Administrative Council	14 7:00 PM United Methodist Women	15	16 Holy Spirit Conference at Decatur Grace UMC	17 Holy Spirit Conference at Decatur Grace UMC	18 Holy Spirit Conference at Decatur Grace UMC
19 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Sunday School 11:30 AM Youth Group 5:00 PM Inner City Mission	20 7:00 PM Staff-Parish Relations Committee	21	22	23	24	25 4:00–7:00 pm Chicken Noodle Supper 
26 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Sunday School	27	28	29	30		

Chicken Noodle Supper



Riverton First United Methodist Church

Where: 429 E. Lincoln St.

When: Saturday, April 25, 2009

Time: 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Donation: \$6.50

Chicken Noodle, Green Beans, Biscuit, Drink and a Desert

DINE IN OR CARRY OUT

Sponsored by the United Methodist Men





RIVERTON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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THE OAKS

Deadline for next issue is
Sunday, **April 19, 2009**
E-mail articles to
newsletter@rivertonfirstumc.org



Looking Ahead

- April 5 Palm Sunday
- April 10 Good Friday service with Baptists, At the Baptist Church
- April 12 Easter Sunday
 - 7 AM Sunrise Service with Baptists, here at UM
 - 8 AM Fellowship Breakfast, here
 - 9:30 Easter Worship
 - 10:30 Special Sunday School Plans
- April 25 Chicken Noodle Supper
- May 6 Mother-Child Dinner
- May 10 Mothers Day
- May 25 Memorial Day
- June 3-6 Annual Conference at Peoria Convention Center
- June 14-18 Vacation Bible School
- 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

