



# THE OAKS



Riverton First United Methodist Church

MARCH 1, 2010

## MARCHING ON

March has come. And on we march. I like those occasions once every four years when March is immediately preceded by a Leap Day. First we leap, and then we march on toward spring. And aren't we ready for spring! It has been a long, cold winter.

In case you noticed that this newsletter did not arrive at the very first of the month, don't blame the editor or production people. The delay was caused by the pastor not getting his material to them in a timely manner. I'm sorry. It seems like things have piled up on me lately. I was sick so much in January that by February it seemed like I was already a month behind. There were Annual reports, Audit Reports, special meetings to find a new church custodian and nursery worker, then preparations for Lent and Easter. But time doesn't wait, it marches on. And so will I. I am feeling much better now. Thank you for all the cards and prayers during my illness and hospitalization.



In this edition of the pastor's letter I want to get back to basics on a couple things. The first is the **Mission Statement** of our church. **Our mission is to draw people into relationship with Christ and the church and to lovingly challenge them to spiritual growth.** We haven't talked much about it lately, but our mission remains unchanged. While we are still early in the year

2010, I pray that we will strive to fulfill this mission in all that we do as a church.

We supplement our mission statement with **Our vision: a warm fellowship of Christians in the Riverton area, growing in numbers and spiritual stature, with facilities and programs to do ministry in the name of Jesus Christ, for generations to come.** If we live up to this vision we are warm and friendly toward one another and to folks outside the church as well. We also seek to grow spiritually, that is, to have an ever closer relationship with God. As we do that God entrusts us with opportunities to be in ministry with more people. We grow and the fellowship grows. Our programs, like youth work, Christian education, worship, Bible study, etc. serve to perpetuate the cycle. Even when we raise money to pay the debt we incurred to improve our facilities (new wiring, new roof, new sewer, accessible rest room, parking lot), we are providing for the continuation of the ministry and witness of the church "for generations to come."

Sometimes I need to stop and review our mission and vision, and remember why we are doing everything we do. Let's keep doing it in the right way and for the right reasons, keeping faithful to our mission and vision.

March on!

Pastor Jonathan Dixon

Christian Education—The new theme for this calendar year is: The Church respects You—You respect the Church. Our goal is to model the wonder and necessity of respect that allows our love to grow in serving God in the Church and serving those who will be ministered to by the Church.



The United Methodist Men will be hosting their Annual Dinner at 6:00 PM on March 28th, 2010. The dinner will be held at the Riverton First United Methodist Church.

All male members of the Church are encouraged to attend. This year's Dinner will feature a Comedian for entertainment and of course good food and eats. The dinner will be followed by a business meeting including election of officers.

For questions or further information please contact Ron Armintrout (629-7854), Mel Allison (629-7306) or George Skaggs (523-2239).

### LENTEN OFFERING



During Lent we often make some special sacrifice as we examine ourselves and prepare for Easter. If you are giving up something, as many people do in this season, perhaps you are saving money in the process. The envelope enclosed in this newsletter would be a good place to insert the cash you have saved by skipping that double grande latte half-caf with skim, no foam every morning. Please consider a special offering in this special season.

### ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING



On March 14 we will take a special offering along with our regular tithes during worship. This once a year offering is called One Great Hour of Sharing. The money goes to support the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). UMCOR is the group that is first on the ground at the scene of natural disasters, and also helps in places of chronic need like Sudan and Haiti. In fact UMCOR was already there in Haiti before the recent earthquake struck. They were seeking to address the existing poverty there. Two top executives of UMCOR lost their lives when the quake hit, but the ministry continued, and still does. We give to UMCOR so that these ministries can continue, on March 14.

### COVENANT DAY

Pastor Dixon is planning a time for baptisms and church membership on one of these soon Sundays. If you are interested in a baptism or in joining the church, please let him know. The date can be arranged. Easter, or one of the Sundays leading up to it, would be a good time to take the step of faith. See him about your situation.



**Thanks to all the snow shovelers and snow plowers.**

**God Bless You All.**



### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- David & Cheryl Beckner March 1, 1974
- James & Mary Dial March 10, 1990
- James & Darlene Schermerhorn March 28, 1964

### Happy Birthday

- Gowin, Arthur March 2
- Wells, Carol March 4
- Armbruster, J. T. March 8
- Grieme, Theresa March 9
- Dial, Mary March 11
- Walters, Allison March 11
- Logsdon, Leonora March 12
- Carr, Richard March 14
- Bruce, Falyn March 15
- Koger, Jeff March 19
- Byers, Liam March 20
- Kleban, Bill March 21
- Davis, Doris March 24
- McCullough, Jerry March 25
- Thomas, Craig March 26
- Trader, Brock March 26



**Needed: 1 large rug that can be put on the floor in the Sunday School Class. It will need to be able to roll up so it can be put away during the week. This will keep the kids off the cold floor. Please call Ellen or speak to her on Sunday. 629-9270.**



# MARCH



1	Monday	7:00 PM Trustees
2	Tuesday	7:00 PM Lenten Bible Study
3	Wednesday	7:00 PM Choir Practice
4	Thursday	
5	Friday	World Day of Prayer
6	Saturday	3 – 7 PM Chili / Soup Supper
7	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Third Sunday of Lent</b> , 9:30 Church Service, 10:30 Sunday School, 11:30 High School Youth Group, 6:00 Junior High Youth Group
8	Monday	
9	Tuesday	7:00 PM United Methodist Women, Pastor at Continuing Education Event
10	Wednesday	7:00 PM Choir Practice, Pastor at Continuing Education Event
11	Thursday	Pastor at Continuing Education Event
12	Friday	
13	Saturday	7:30 AM United Methodist Men
14	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday of Lent</b> , 9:30 Church Service, 10:30 Sunday School, Daylight Saving Time Begins, One Great Hour of Sharing 6:00 PM Otterbein Cluster Sing Along at Woodside UMC
15	Monday	
16	Tuesday	7:00 PM Lenten Bible Study
17	Wednesday	<b>St. Patrick's Day</b> , 7:00 PM Choir Practice
18	Thursday	
19	Friday	
20	Saturday	4:00 PM Myers - Dressendorfer Wedding
21	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Fifth Sunday of Lent</b> , 9:30 Church Service, 10:30 Sunday School, Coffee Fellowship following service, 11:30 AM High School Youth 6:00 PM Junior High Youth
22	Monday	6:00 PM United Methodist Men's Annual Dinner
23	Tuesday	7:00 PM Lenten Bible Study
24	Wednesday	
25	Thursday	
26	Friday	
27	Saturday	
28	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Palm/Passion Sunday</b> , 9:30 Church Service, 10:30 Sunday School
29	Monday	
30	Tuesday	
31	Wednesday	7:00 PM Choir Practice



# Chili and Soup Supper

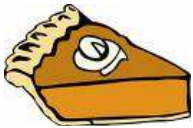


**Saturday, March 6, 2010  
3:00 to 7:00 pm**

Riverton United Methodist Church  
429 East Lincoln Street

*A Donation of \$6.50 Will Be Accepted.*

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



**EAT IN OR CARRY OUT**



**!!! Bring your family and your appetite !!!**



Plans are underway for The Vacation Bible School.  
More news will be coming soon.



## **The United Methodist Women Will Meet:**



**March 9, Tuesday at 7:00 PM**

The program will be given by Betty Peel. Hostesses: Janet Gown and Bobbie Sexton. Refreshments will be served. We welcome all the ladies of the Church. Please come join us if you can.



**Come See Us At Fellowship The Hall.**



P.S. We still have Pecans left, pieces \$7.00 halves \$8.00. Call Rose Hughes 629-9565, Barbara Rhodes 629-9247, Doris Lamkey 629-9556, Bonnie Klaves 629-9794—or—any member.



## RIVERTON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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**WE'RE ON THE WEB!**

**[WWW.RIVERTONFIRSTUMC.ORG](http://WWW.RIVERTONFIRSTUMC.ORG)**

**THE OAKS**

Deadline for next issue is  
Sunday, **March 14, 2010**  
E-mail articles to  
[newsletter@rivertonfirstumc.org](mailto:newsletter@rivertonfirstumc.org)



### Looking Ahead

- † March 6, Chili Supper
- † March 14, Daylight Savings Time Begins
- † March 22, UM Men Annual Dinner
- † March 28, Palm Sunday
- † April 1, 6:00 PM Cluster Holy Thursday Service at Asbury UMC
- † April 2, 7:00 PM Good Friday Service with Baptists and Otterbein Cluster
- † April 4, Easter Sunday
- † May 5, Mother-Child Banquet
- † May 9, Mother's Day
- † May 21 Dinner, Drama and Ditties
- † May 31, Memorial Day
- † June 2 – 5, Annual Conference in Peoria.
- † June 20, Father's Day
- † July 4, Independence Sunday
- † September 12, United Methodist Women Sunday
- † October 23, Chili / Soup Supper and Bazaar
- † October 31, Trunk-er-Treat
- † November 21, 6:00 PM Community Thanksgiving Service
- † November 25, Thanksgiving

