

September 1, 2012

# The Oaks



Riverton First United Methodist Church, (217) 629-9721

## Paper Season

Summer is winding down and autumn is on the way. Of course on the liturgical, church calendar we have seasons as well, such as Advent and Lent. But the season on my mind today is none of these formal ones. It is the informal season of paper. Soon after annual conference (usually early June here), paper season begins.

It starts with the paperwork related to moves made by pastors. Fortunately for me, I have not had to deal with this lately. I've been privileged to stay right here, now beginning fifteen years. (Thanks be to God.) Many pastors do move, however, so new district directories are prepared. A new Journal and Yearbook has to be printed for the conference too.

First I have to fill out forms for the district office. My Personal Profile has to be updated, in case any of my dependents, pets, hobbies or spouses have changed. Then comes a Self Assessment, in preparation for my consultation with the district superintendent sometime in the second half of the calendar year.

Then come Assessments of the Church and of the Pastor by the Staff-Parish Relations Committee. It is always interesting to see how their assessment of me compares with my own. (They are usually nicer to me than I am to myself.)

Next comes preparations for Church Conference, which usually happens sometime between October and December. This involves a Church Council Report, Applications for Persons Beginning or Continuing Status as a Lay Speaker, Proposed Budget for the next calendar year, a Church Roll of all the officers and committees of the church, a Membership Cultivation Report, a Parsonage Report, Parsonage Checklist, Pastoral Financial Support Worksheet, Compensation Reduction Agreement for Tax Exclusion, Pastor's Report, Pastor's Report Supplement, Clergy Salary Redirection Agreement, Audit Report, Signature Form and Trustees Report. These all need to be completed by October 25 in preparation for Church Conference November 4 this year.

After Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas and New Year's, it will be time for the Annual Statistical Reports on attendance, membership, finances etc. That rounds out the Paper Season.

So if you have any family or friends who need a pastoral visit in the hospital, need pastoral counsel, or want an invocation given at your birthday party or barbeque, please do not hesitate to call me. I will be delighted to come. Anything to get away from all this paperwork.

Pastor Jonathan Dixon

**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 – September 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Coffee Fellowship; 10:35 AM Sunday School Kickoff	3 7:00 PM Board of Trustees	4	5 9:00 AM Quilting	6	7	8 7:30 AM United Methodist Men
9 United Methodist Women Sunday 9:30 AM Worship with Karen Cox from Mini O'Beirne Crisis Nursery speaking; 10:30 AM Coffee Fellowship; 10:35 AM Sunday School; 6:30 PM Finance Committee; 7:15 PM Administrative Council	10 7:00 PM Staff – Parish Relations Committee	11 7:00 PM United Methodist Women	12 9:00 AM Quilting; 7:00 PM Choir	13	14	15 Family Campfest begins at Noon
16 9:30 AM Camp-style Worship; 10:30 AM Sunday School; 11:30 AM All-Church Potluck	17	18	19 9:00 AM Quilting; 7:00 PM Choir	20	21	22
23 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Coffee Fellowship; 10:35 AM Sunday School	24	25	26 9:00 AM Quilting; 7:00 PM Choir	27	28	29 7-11 AM Community Pancake Breakfast for Riverton Food Pantry at Riverton Christian Church
30 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Coffee Fellowship; 10:35 Sunday School; 4:00 PM Welcome Service for Bishop Jonathan Keaton at Springfield First UMC						

## Looking Ahead...

October 13, Chili Supper  
 October 31, Trunk-er Treat  
 November 4, 6:00 PM Church Conference at Sherman UMC  
 November 11, United Methodist Men's Sunday

November 18, 6:00 PM Community Thanksgiving Service at Riverton Christian Church  
 December 1, Hanging of the Greens  
 December 2, Advent Begins

## Quilting News

Wow! If you aren't quilting, you are missing all the news. We have had many folks busy quilting.....so many happy hands quilting that we have two quilts in the frames so that everyone has a place to quilt and, of course, talk. Come join the fun!

## Church Committees

Recently the Stewardship Committee met and determined that there may be members of the congregation that are not aware of what certain committees and groups do in the church. It was decided to place an article regarding one of these committees or groups in the newsletter each month to inform the congregation and perhaps interest some of you to join a committee or group and enhance our church with your knowledge and talents.

This month our committee is the **Trustees**. The Trustees are in charge of making sure that the church, parsonage and grounds are safe and in good condition. Recently the Trustees have been working on the fan in the furnace, a broken limb, tuck pointing the bricks at the church and planning and designing the parsonage kitchen remodel.

The Trustees meet once a month. If you have any questions or are interested in joining the Trustees, (terms are for 3 years at a time) please contact a member of the committee. Current committee members are: Ron Armintrout, Chairperson, Judy McCullough, Don Sutton, Lori Payne-Mullet, Ernie Grieme, George Skaggs, Mel Allison, Tom Pantier and Nik Caldwell.

## Scrip News

CONGRATULATIONS!!! You have been using these gift cards enough that we will soon be able to pay an additional \$1,000.00 on the latest loan principal. It is amazing how we can use these gift cards for ourselves and yet help our church out of indebtness at the same time. You have done a fantastic job! Keep up the good work!

In September the order dates will be Sept 2 and 16; the pickup dates will be Sept 9 and 23. The next order date will be Oct.7. The Sunday of Sept. 29 there will be no Scrip.

## September Birthdays

Lesta Fitzpatrick	9/2/1983
Debbie Stoneburner	9/2/1958
Richard Blakley	9/4
David Sims	9/7/2000
Jonathan Dixon	9/11/1947
James Rusciolelli	9/17/1940
Bree-anna Day	9/20/1993
Erin Martincic	9/20/1978
Colby Beattie	9/24/2010
Lori Payne-Mullett	9/25/1962
Tori Scales	9/26/2003
Lyle Beckey	9/28
Chris Beattie	9/29
Mike Lucas	9/29/1955

## September Anniversaries

Michael and Mary Pugh	9/1/1968
Chris and Lyndsey Beattie	9/4/2004
Les and Dorothy Hendricks	9/17/1988
Kevin and Tracy Scales	9/21/1994
Nik and Sharon Caldwell	9/21/1968
Marion and Pat Upton	9/26/1964

# Our Financial Health



WOW ! FANTASTIC ! AMAZING !

Those are just a few of the words that come to mind. During the past few years our financial Health would never include those words. However, after the great response from everyone during Consecration Sunday, the results have been, well, WOW ! FANTASTIC ! AMAZING !

Last year as of July 31, 2011

- Total Income for Operating Expenses \$66,235.33
- we were \$5,568.42 behind our budget need
- We were having meetings to decide what bills and obligations we should pay first and which we can let sit until next month if we do not have the funds
- We were 4 months behind in our conference obligations

This year as of July 29, 2012

- Total Income for Operating Expenses \$76,084.82
- we are \$2,839.26 AHEAD of our budget need.
- We are current on all of our bills
- We are current on our conference obligations

Certainly, the response to Consecration Sunday and the question “what percentage of your income is God calling you to give to God’s work through this congregation” is truly responsible for such an amazing turn around in our financial Health in such a very short time.

We are truly are a blessed congregation and ministry.

Financial Secretary  
Tom Pantier

## Trustee News

In case you haven't looked 'heaven-ward' at the exterior of the east side of the church.....The fire escape area has been sanded and primed. As time allows, Scott Pantier will be putting the finishing coat of paint on the fire escape. The trustees have repaired the light fixture at the bottom of the basement stairs; the poison ivy has been sprayed AGAIN; the new towel dispensers are installed in the restrooms (thank you to Lori Payne-Mullet); the pulpit light has been repaired; and animal guards are in place over the open drain pipes.

The paper work should be complete on the updated loan for the church by the time this newsletter gets posted/printed. At that time Evans-Mason will begin the work on the exterior bricks. When they are at the church working, please be careful of their equipment and keep this project accident free for everyone. The trustees have had MUCH discussion regarding the parsonage kitchen. It is their desire to update/remodel this room in a fashion that will be convenient and serviceable for years to come. The plans are nearing completion and we hope to get this project underway in the next couple of months.



Riverton First United Methodist  
429 East Lincoln  
Riverton, IL 62561



Address Correction Requested

RFUMC PHONE: (217) 629-9721  
E-MAIL: [rvtnumc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rvtnumc@sbcglobal.net)  
WEBSITE: [www.rivertonfirstumc.com](http://www.rivertonfirstumc.com)