

October 1, 2012

The Oaks



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

MINISTRIES: THE BIG PICTURE

First, let me express my thanks and appreciation to you for your stewardship. By stewardship I mean the giving of your time, talents, treasure and loyalty to the church. Many of you serve voluntarily on committees and projects. Some of you give us the benefit of your abilities in music, technology, maintenance work etc. Others give in ways behind the scenes in ways I don't even see. And you attend worship and other activities of the church. Thank you.

I especially want to emphasize in this letter the way you have responded financially to support the ministries of the church. Since Consecration Sunday last February we have seen a real turnaround in the church finances. We are running ahead of budget projections, paying all our obligations, and having a little cushion to feel better prepared for unscheduled things that may come up, like equipment failure. Furnaces, for example, seem to go out in the coldest of weather. Ours are fine right now, as far as I know; I just use that as an example of why it is nice to have a little reserve beyond basic expenses.

The obligations we were skimping on when our finances were tighter were mostly what we call our conference apportionments. We are now paying them in full, in a timely manner. Since you are enabling this to happen, I want to share with you some of the things we help accomplish through our apportioned giving through the conference and denomination. We support the World Service Fund, which is a lifeline for missions and ministries all over the world. We contribute to Africa University, a showcase United Methodist-related institution which serves students from all over the African continent, not just in religious studies, but also in fields like agriculture and health care, which are sorely needed in many parts of Africa. The Ministerial Education Fund provides scholarships and programs for the next generation of pastors. The Black College Fund helps 11 United Methodist-related historically Black colleges (like Wiley College of Denzel Washington's famous movie, *The Great Debaters*, provide faculty and facilities to educate young people, many of them minorities with limited options. The Episcopal Fund provides us with bishops who give us spiritual and administrative leadership. The Interdenominational Cooperation Fund enables our church to have a voice in national and international conversation and witness for Christ. Finally, the General Administration Fund provides for trustworthy systems of oversight and accountability for the finances of the whole church.

Who knew you did so much; had a part in such a global web of ministries, all by generously supporting your local church? Now you do know. By your giving you are helping us pay for local expenses and ministry, and your Christian influence is at work throughout the world. Thank you and God bless you!

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 – October 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 7:00 PM Board of Trustees	2	3 9:00 AM Quilting; 7:00 PM Choir Practice	4	5	6
7 9:30 AM Worship, Lay Speaker, Nadine Mackenzie; 10:30 AM Sunday School; 6:30 PM Finance Committee	8	9 7:00 PM United Methodist Women	10 9:00 AM Quilting; 7:00 PM Choir Practice	11	12	13 7:30 AM United Methodist Men; 4-7 PM Chili Supper
14 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Coffee Fellowship; 10:35 AM Sunday School; 6:30 PM Finance Committee; 7:15 PM Administrative Council	15	16	17 9:00 AM Quilting; 7:00 PM Choir Practice	18	19	20
					Religion & Race Learning Event in Bloomington, Illinois	
21 9:30 AM Worship, Lay Speaker, Ellen Dixon; 10:30 AM Sunday School	22	23	24 9:00 AM Quilting; 7:00 PM Choir Practice	25	26	27
Religion & Race Learning Event in Bloomington, Illinois						
28 Reformation Sunday, 9:30 Worship; 10:30 Sunday School	29	30	31 Halloween, 6-8 PM Trunk-er-Treat			

Looking Ahead...

November 4, All Saints Sunday, 6:00 PM Church Conference at Sherman UMC

November 11, United Methodist Men Sunday

November 18, 6:00 PM Community Thanksgiving Service at Riverton Christian Church

November 22, Thanksgiving Day

December 1, Hanging of the Greens

December 2, Advent Begins

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: OCTOBER 21



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 Staff/Pastor-Parish Committee. This committee makes many important decisions. The members of this committee determine the wages of all paid staff of the church, are involved when a new pastor is assigned to our church, are liaisons between the congregation and the pastor and vice versa. This committee does an annual assessment of the church and the pastor, which they are working on at this time.

The Staff/Pastor-Parish Committee meets quarterly and a couple extra times during the fall to complete the assessments. If you have any questions or are interested in joining the Staff/Pastor-Parish Committee, (terms are for 3 years at a time) please contact a member of the committee. Current committee members are: Marsha Sutton, Chairperson, Mary Pugh, Nadine Mackenzie, George Skaggs, Erin Martincic, Carly Shank, Cheryl Allison, Barb Lucas and Nik Caldwell. Ex Officio members are Jeri Sucech and Grace Carriker.

The United Methodist Women

will meet

Tuesday, October 9 at 7:00 PM

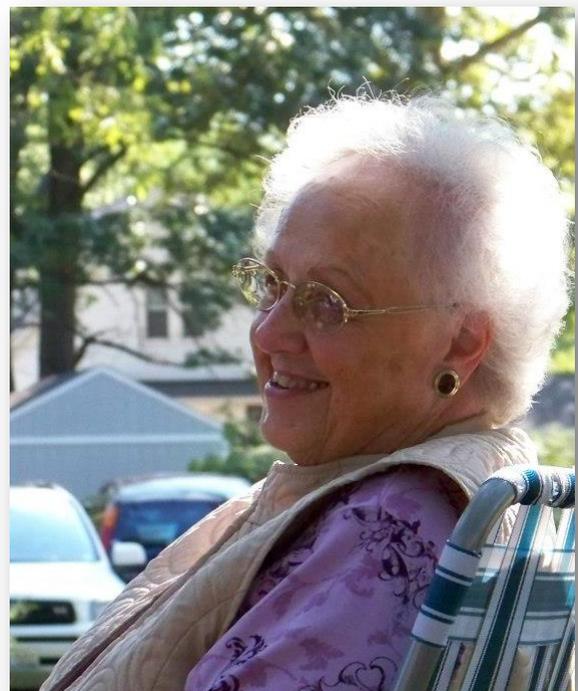
Program: World Thank Offering
Hostesses: Hope McKenzie and
Nadine Mackenzie

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

*Chili and Vegetable Soup Supper
October 13*

October Birthdays

Benjamin Armbruster	October 2, 2005
James Dial	October 12, 1962
George Skaggs	October 12, 1945
Rose Cessna	October 13
Evelyn Gandy	October 15, 1942
Anna Marie Kresse	October 15
Mary Pugh	October 16
Deborah Rhodes	October 17, 1953
John Martincic	October 18, 1974
Roger Pfeiffer	October 20, 1959
Tyler Sloman	October 20, 1979
Vickie Bruce	October 21, 1975
Yvonne Mann	October 21
Ryan Pfeiffer	October 21, 1973
John Caldwell	October 26, 1952
Jud Baumann	October 27
Samantha Sloman	October 29, 1982



*Chili / Soup
Supper & Bazaar*

**Riverton
United Methodist
Church**

Where: 429 E. Lincoln St.

When: Saturday, Oct. 13, 2012

Time: 4:00 - 7:00 PM

Donation: \$6.50

Chili or soup, Dessert and Drink

Chicken Salad Sandwich

or Hot Dogs Extra

EAT IN OR CARRY OUT

Trustee News

It isn't something that you think much about.....until you need one.....however, the fire escape on the east side of the church has a new paint job. The rust was removed, primed and painted. It looks great. Now the bricks on the building are getting a new look. The trustees contracted to have the church power washed to remove crumbled mortar and get rid of that ugly dirt and mold on the bricks and blocks. They have been busy replacing the old, decayed joints. The last portion of this project will be to spray a sealer on the bricks to help retain the new mortar and preserve the bricks. This project has been very expensive and the trustees had to ask for more loan money. They have gotten a new loan, but it is with a reduced interest rate. We all hope that the congregation approves of this action that the trustees took. It was definitely necessary to repair and preserve the church building.

Also, if you missed it, a large tree on the west side of the parsonage had to be taken down. The church grounds have been well maintained the last few years, but Mother Nature has been bad for many trees and plants. We may lose more trees in the near future.

Just recently, the east entrance to the basement has been cleaned and painted. It is a much more attractive entrance into the kitchen and basement area.

If you see a problem with the grounds or buildings, please advise a trustee so that the problem can be addressed.

October Anniversaries

Andrew and Lesta Fitzpatrick
Bob and Rose Alice Hughes

October 6, 2007
October 28, 1961



