

November 1, 2012

# The Oaks



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

## TRADITIONS

As I sit to write a message for the November newsletter I am thinking of the paradox of the month's name, November. From its roots in Latin, the word November means "ninth month." But this isn't the ninth month, It's the eleventh month of the year. To paraphrase Scripture, "How can these things be?"

In the ancient Roman calendar there were ten 36-day months. Each of the last four months reflected that plan: septem, octo, novem and decem are 7, 8, 9 and 10 in Latin – hence September, October, November and December. (We are lucky they didn't start the pattern a month earlier, because 6 is sex in Latin. We might not like having a Sexber on our calendars.)

The change to a twelve-month system came because of human vanity. Two Roman emperors, Julius and Augustus, decided that they should have months named after themselves. And apparently they wanted their namesakes to be warm weather months. So they took days away from all the original months, reducing them to 30 or 31 days each, and even worse for poor February. So now we have July and August, with 31 days each, in the summertime.

So November and the months immediately before and after it retain their traditional names, even though the tradition no longer makes any sense. They are not the seventh through tenth months; they are ninth through twelfth.

Why am I telling you all this? It reminds us that we live among old traditions, some of which have lost their original meaning. As we live through this eleventh month, November, and on through the end of the year into a new year, we will be awash with traditions. Some of the traditions are still meaningful, like setting aside the fourth Thursday of November as a time to give thanks for God's blessings upon us. Some traditions have nothing to do with the original intention of that day, like watching football and parades all day. And some are different but still positive, like Thanksgiving being a traditional time of family togetherness.

Another tradition associated with November is elections. Unremitting, divisive and sometimes dishonest advertising surrounds us. We could live without this tradition. But we do appreciate the tradition of voting by private ballot. May that tradition continue!

Entering the holiday season, let us think carefully and prayerfully about what traditions we keep, and why. We have traditional ways to worship, but we need to be open to new ways of praising God sometimes as well. We have a long-standing close-knit group of members in the church, but we need to be open to diversity and growth. May we keep the traditions that are useful and move beyond any that have lost their usefulness. And may God grant us the wisdom to discern which are which.

Blessings,

Pastor Jonathan Dixon

# RFUMC Calendar – November 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4 All Saints Sunday 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Sunday School; 6:00 PM Church Conference at Sherman UMC; Daylight Saving Time ends	5 7:00 PM Board of Trustees	6 Election Day	7 9:00 AM Quilting; 7:00 PM Choir Practice	8	9	10 7:30 AM United Methodist Men
11 United Methodist Men Sunday 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Coffee Fellowship; 10:35 AM Sunday School; 1:00 PM remembrance Ceremony at Veterans' Memorial Park, Riverton	12	13 7:00 PM United Methodist Women	14 9:00 AM Quilting; 7:00 PM Choir Practice	15	16	17
18 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Sunday School; 6:00 PM Community Thanksgiving Service at Riverton Christian Church	19	20	21 9:00 AM Quilting; 7:00 PM Choir Practice	22 Thanksgiving Day	23	24
25 Christ the King Sunday 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Sunday School	26	27	28 9:00 AM Quilting; 7:00 PM Choir Practice	29	30	



## Looking Ahead...

December 1, 9:00 AM Hanging of the Greens  
 December 4, UMW Christmas Party  
 December 16, 7:00 PM Christmas Musical  
 December 24, Christmas Eve Service  
 January 19, 2013 Chicken Noodle Dinner  
 February 9, Family Valentine Dinner  
 February 12, Shrove Tuesday  
 February 13, Ash Wednesday

*NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 18*

# 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 Nominations Committee. This committee makes nominations for members of the committees of the church. If you have indicated a desire to serve on a particular committee you will most likely be contacted by this committee to make sure you wish to serve. They also look over the church membership and will nominate members to serve on certain committees. A committee member will also call or contact you to make certain that you are willing to participate on that particular committee. The Nominations will be meeting soon to have committees established for 2013 to present at the Charge Conference meeting in November.

The Nominations Committee meets once or twice in the fall to nominate members for church committees. If you have any questions or are interested in joining the Nominations Committee, (terms are for 3 years at a time) please contact a member of the committee. Current committee members are: Hope McKenzie, Don Sutton, Rick Carr, Ellen Dixon, Barb Rhodes, Jan Gowin, Sharon Stroisch, Nancy Daniels and Sharon Caldwell.

## November Birthdays

Grace Carriker	11/2/1930
Nancy Daniels	11/5/1941
Bobbie Sexton	11/8/1958
Cheryl Allison	11/9
Bill Mann, Jr.	11/10
Ellen Dixon	11/12/1947
Vernon Morris	11/14
Thomas Pantier	11/16/1957
Scott Binion	11/18/1976
Elijah Byers	11/20/2009
Callie Tester	11/23
Paulette Bumgardner	11/25/1946

## The United Methodist Women

will meet

Tuesday, November 13 at 7 P.M.

Program: Pledge Service  
Hostesses: Doris Lamkey, Barbara Rhodes, and Marsha Sutton

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

*We will be selling pecans this year  
Halves \$9.00 Pieces \$8.50*



## November Anniversaries

Tim and Bobbie Sexton	11/9/1979
Don and Marsha Sutton	11/23/1973
James and Kim Rusciollelli	11/23/1983
Thomas and Melissa Pantier	11/23/1991
Dennis and Bonnie Klaves	11/27/1958

# Thanksgiving

November 22 is Thanksgiving Day. We will not have a special service here at the church, but will join the other churches in Riverton again this year for a Community Thanksgiving Service. The service will be held at Riverton Christian Church at 6:00 PM Sunday, November 18. Pastor Dixon will preach. We are all invited to attend and to bring a dessert to share after the service in the multi-purpose room there at the Christian Church. The offering received during the service will support the Riverton Food Pantry.

The envelope inserted in your newsletter this month is labeled Thanksgiving. There is no special designation for the offering; it is just a reminder for us to give with thankful hearts to support the Lord's work. Next month we will have a special designation for the Advent Offering, to support charities outside our four walls. We will talk about that then.

## Trunk-er Treat - 2012

*As always, thanks to Melissa Pantier for a great event and these great photos.*



