

January 1, 2013

The Oaks



Riverton First United Methodist Church (217) 629-9721

Thoughts for 2013

Thank you. I know it's printed elsewhere in this newsletter, but I need to say it again. Thank you for the generous cash offering you presented to us at Christmas time. And thank you for yet another year of time together as pastor and church. We are halfway through year 15 here. And we aren't done yet. Thank you for so many things.

I think this will be a major theme of my preaching in 2013 – Gratitude. I want to be a more grateful person, and to lead you as a congregation to be grateful as well. We have so many blessings. Sure, we have difficulties and challenges from time to time; that's the nature of human life in this world. But we are also blessed in many ways. I hope to cultivate a constant awareness of it, and to express contagious thankfulness.

Another thought. I think it is time we make a new church directory. Many of us have changed our telephone numbers and other vital information since the last directory. It's time to update. I hope some of you will step up to help us get organized and get it done. Let me know if you can help.

One of the new projects early in 2013 is the remodeling of the parsonage kitchen. That process may alter some of my mealtime plans while the old is cleared away and the new is installed, but it will be a small price to pay for a great benefit. A newer, modern kitchen will be a great asset to the church and to whoever lives in the parsonage over the next several years. (I hope to be that resident for a while yet.)

On January 20 our district will hold its annual Leadership Development Training at Decatur First UMC. There will be sessions to help lay persons serve in the local church in roles from Staff-Parish Relations to Finance to Missions to Recovery Ministries etc. I hope some of you will plan to attend. Information is detailed on the bulletin board.

I hope to lead a Lenten Bible Study group again this year. Let me know if there are particular topics or scriptures that you might find helpful or interesting. Lent begins next month with Ash Wednesday on February 13. So we need to get planning.

We will be having a Consecration Sunday again this year, after Easter. We had a positive experience with it this past year. Our financial support of the ministries of the church has been much stronger since we tried it. We have met and exceeded budget regularly. This year we are returning to regular support of a missionary, a practice we dropped for a while due to financial crunch. Praise God! We are growing in our service to him.

On that positive note I will wrap up this letter. Happy New Year. May God bless us all.

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 – January 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 New Year's Day	2 9:00 AM Quilting	3	4	5
6 Epiphany 9:30 Worship; 10:30 Sunday School	7	8 7:00 PM United Methodist Women	9 9:00 AM Quilting	10	11	12 7:30 AM United Methodist Men
13 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Sunday School; 6:30 PM Finance and Administrative Council	14	15	16 9:00 AM Quilting	17	18	19 4 – 7 PM UMM Chicken Noodle Dinner
20 Human Relations Day 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Sunday School; 2 – 5 PM District Leadership Development Training at Decatur First UMC	21 Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday	22	23 9:00 AM Quilting	24	25	26
27 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Sunday School	28	29	30 9:00 AM Quilting	31		

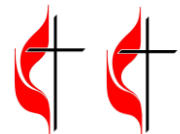
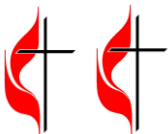
Looking Ahead...

February 9, Family Valentine Dinner
 February 13, Ash Wednesday
 March 4, UMM Annual Meeting
 March 24, Palm Sunday
 March 29, Good Friday (Service at First Baptist Church)
 March 31, Easter Sunday (Sunrise Service and Regular Worship Here)

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: JANUARY 20

Quilting

We are getting close to finishing two quilts! But don't worry, we have more quilts to put in the frames as soon as we can get these two completed. So come on down. Wednesday mornings, from 9:00 A.M. to 11:30 A.M. There is lots of conversation, information, hot air and loads of fun!



2013 Church Officers and Committees

Trustees: Mel Allison, Ernie Grieme, George Skaggs [2015]

Continuing Members: Judy McCullough, Lori Payne-Mullett, Don Sutton [2014]

Ron Armintrout, Nik Caldwell, Tom Pantier [2013]

Staff/Parish Relations: Rick Carr, Mary Pugh, Marsha Sutton [2015]

Continuing Members: Erin Martincic, Carly Shank, George Skaggs [2014]

Cheryl Allison, Nik Caldwell, Barb Lucas [2013]

Ex Officio: Grace Carriker, Jeri Sucech

Nominations: Lisa Dungey, Janet Gowin, Barbara Rhodes [2015] [Jonathan Dixon]

Continuing Members: Rick Carr, Hope McKenzie, Don Sutton [2014]

Sharon Caldwell, Nancy Daniels, Sharon Stroisch [2013]

Worship: Sharon Caldwell, Ellen Dixon, Carly Shank, Patsy Skaggs

Lay Minister's Covenant Group: Sharon Caldwell, Rose Hughes, Marsha Sutton [Ellen Dixon]

Hospitality and Growth: Sharon Caldwell, Grace Carriker, Mary Dial, Rose Hughes, Kathy Jones, Karen Koger, Lori Payne-Mullett, Barbara Rhodes, Sharon Stroisch

Offering Counters: Sharon Caldwell, Rick Carr, John Martincic, Tom Pantier

Education: Grace Carriker, Karen Koger, Nadine Mackenzie (Chair), Hope McKenzie (VBS)

Media: Ron Armintrout, Kim Beckey, Nik Caldwell, Deb Greenwood, Tom Pantier, Carly Shank

Prayer: Ellen Dixon, Dot Hendricks, Barbara Lucas

Stewardship: Ron Armintrout, Grace Carriker, Ellen Dixon, Rose Hughes, Tom Pantier, Jeri Sucech, Marsha Sutton

Special Events Coordinator: Melissa Pantier

Treasurer: Debbie Stoneburner

Financial Secretary: Tom Pantier

Lay Leader: Grace Carriker

Lay Member of Annual Conference: Jeri Sucech; Alternate: Ellen Dixon



RFUMC 2013 Budget

Area 1	Ministry to People	Annual	Monthly	Weekly
11	Transient Help	\$100.00	\$8.33	\$1.92
12	Hospitality and Growth	\$500.00	\$41.67	\$9.62
13	Education	\$800.00	\$66.67	\$15.38
14	VBS	\$700.00	\$58.33	\$13.46
15	Worship	\$1,500.00	\$125.00	\$28.85
16	Music	\$250.00	\$20.83	\$4.81
17	Youth	\$100.00	\$8.33	\$1.92
Total	Area 1 Total	\$3,950.00	\$329.17	\$75.96
Area 2	Ministry of Administration	Annual	Monthly	Weekly
20	Finance Committee	\$1,750.00	\$145.83	\$33.65
21	Office Expense	\$1,750.00	\$145.83	\$33.65
22a	Custodial Supplies	\$200.00	\$16.67	\$3.85
23	Insurance	\$4,520.00	\$376.67	\$86.92
25	Utilities (elec., gas, water, phone)	\$9,500.00	\$791.67	\$182.69
27	Annual Conference Expense	\$750.00	\$62.50	\$14.42
28	Capital Improvements	\$11,795.76	\$982.98	\$226.84
Total	Area 2 Total	\$30,265.76	\$2,522.15	\$582.03
Area 3	Ministry of Our Staff	Annual	Monthly	Weekly
30	Clergy Stipend	\$47,776.78	\$3,981.40	\$918.78
30b	Pastors Professional Expense	\$1,000.00	\$83.33	\$19.23
30c	Pastoral Cable, Phone	\$1,140.00	\$95.00	\$21.92
31	Pastors Travel	\$2,500.00	\$208.33	\$48.08
32	Pastors Continuing Education	\$500.00	\$41.67	\$9.62
33	Organist (@ \$60.00 service - 56/year)	\$3,360.00	\$280.00	\$64.62
33a	Guest Organist		\$-	\$-
35	FICA * Withholding	\$500.00	\$41.67	\$9.62
36	Nursery Care (@ \$17.50 - 56/year)	\$980.00	\$81.67	\$18.85
37	Guest Speakers	\$300.00	\$25.00	\$5.77
38	Custodial Salary (@ \$40.00 - 52 weeks)	\$2,080.00	\$173.33	\$40.00
39	Workers Compensation	\$542.00	\$45.17	\$10.42
Total	Area 3 Total	\$60,678.78	\$5,056.57	\$1,166.90
Area 4	Connectional Ministry	Annual	Monthly	Weekly
40	Pension / Health Benefits	\$10,735.26	\$894.61	\$206.45
41	Clergy Support and Administration	\$9,408.00	\$784.00	\$180.92
42	Benevolences / Connectional Ministries	\$5,688.00	\$474.00	\$109.38
44	Medical Insurance	\$17,520.00	\$1,460.00	\$336.92
45	Missionary Support (Janet McCarty in Philippines)	\$1,000.00	\$83.33	\$19.23
Total	Area 4 Total	\$44,351.26	\$3,695.94	\$852.91
Total	Summary of All Areas	Annual	Monthly	Weekly
Area 1	Ministry to People	\$3,950.00	\$329.17	\$75.96
Area 2	Ministry of Administration	\$30,265.76	\$2,522.15	\$582.03
Area 3	Ministry of Our Staff	\$60,678.78	\$5,056.57	\$1,166.90
Area 4	Connectional Ministry	\$44,351.26	\$3,695.94	\$852.91
Total	Total	\$139,245.80	\$11,603.82	\$2,677.80



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 Membership/Covenant Group with the Certified Lay Minister. The purpose of this committee is to work

on the nurturing and care of the membership of the church. This committee organized and held the Family Campfest held in September.

This committee will be meeting the third Wednesday of the month. If you have any questions or are interested in joining the committee, please contact a member of the committee. Current committee members are: Ellen Dixon, Rose Hughes, Sharon Caldwell and Marsha Sutton.

Thank You Note from the Dixons

Thanks to all of the people of The Riverton United Methodist Church-- Thank you for all your enormous love to those in our community and a special thanks for showing us your love this Christmas season. Your Card and money were generous and it is much appreciated. It is a joy to serve you all. To feel your love all year is truly a blessing. May you be blessed in this season and in the New Year by God's love and His example of extravagant love He gave us so freely. It is hard to express in mere words how much you are loved by us and how much we cherish you in all ways.

Jonathan and Ellen Dixon

Trustee News

The trustees thank Marion Upton for his work in the front yard, where the large tree was recently taken down. He had been working the soil and trying to get some of the roots out, to enable for fill dirt to smooth out the area and get re-seeded before next spring. The trustees have been seeding several areas that have had the grass destroyed. Also, thanks to Scott and Tom Pantier for doing caulking work on the church roof in the flat area of the hall in the upper rooms.

It seems like the same old story, but we are hopeful that the work on the parsonage kitchen will begin after the first of the new year. The work has been delayed, in order to verify that the rafters and roof supports were satisfactory to enable to make some changes.

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Address Correction Requested

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E-MAIL: rvrtnumc@sbcglobal.net
WEBSITE: www.rivertonfirstumc.com

Scrip Update

The next SCRIP order dates will be January 6 and January 20, 2013. Please be sure to review the attached SCRIP order sheet. Many changes have been made. Some business have been deleted; some businesses have been added; some businesses changed their percentage of giving and some have changed the value of their gift cards.

The Advent Season for the SCRIP program was fantastic! Thank you all for your participation. Due to the large amount of cards you have purchased, we will be able to pay another \$1,000.00 directly on the principal of our church's loan. To refresh your memory and/or for your information.... your involvement with this program in 2012 has enabled you to pay an additional \$3,000.00 of the loan's principal. That amount is above the regular monthly payments that are made. Congratulations!

Due to the additions in the percentages/values/businesses, let's hope to be able to pay more during 2013. If you have not used this program before, we will be glad to explain it to you directly. Rev. Dixon will direct you to the folks with the information. These gift cards need not be used just for gift-giving; you can use them for your every-day expenses.