

March 1, 2013

# The Oaks



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

## SCRATCHINGS FROM THE DIXON PENCIL

Greetings! As we march into March, we continue the Lenten season. Easter will be the last day of this month, March 31. We will continue our tradition of joining with the folks at Riverton First Baptist Church in that celebration. They will join us here for a Sunrise Service at 7:00 AM on Easter, followed by a Fellowship Breakfast here in our basement. Both groups will then continue their regular schedules for the day. For us that means worship at 9:30 AM. During the Sunday School Hour we will have an Easter Egg Hunt for the children. On Good Friday, March 29, we will be with the Baptists at their church on Riverton Road. We will continue the practice by which I preach at their place, and their pastor, the Rev. John Keyes, will preach here.

Continuing to move backward through the calendar, we will observe both Palm and Passion Sunday March 24. The palms remind us of the Triumphant Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. The Passion part will be our remembering of the betrayal, trial and passionate suffering of Jesus leading up to the cross.

The United Methodist Men have their Annual Meeting, a dinner of beef and noodles, March 11 at 6 PM. They will discuss plans and officers for the coming year. All men are invited.

In the meantime we will continue our Lenten Studies each Wednesday. Sunday, March 10 deserves special mention, besides the fact that it marks the beginning of Daylight Saving Time. That morning we will collect the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. This is a special collection once a year to support the work of UMCOR, United Methodist Committee on Relief. It is the organization that responds immediately to disasters on our behalf around the globe. They go to the floods, hurricanes, tsunamis, tornadoes etc. Then they stay around to help with clean-up and recovery after the initial rescue operations. They deserve our generous support.

The United Methodist Women start out the month with their Chili and Vegetable Soup Supper on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, from 4-7 PM. It is good food that raises fun and funds for their ministries.

Having marched backward through March, now I want to look beyond it. We hope to get a new church directory out this spring. You will be contacted soon about getting your pictures and contact information included. Also, the Christian Education Department is considering ways to be in ministry with more children than they have had in Sunday School lately. We are considering having an extended time with children beyond the present Children's Moments during the worship service. Watch for announcements and details.

One more thing. Those who receive paper copies of the newsletter get an Easter Offering envelope enclosed. Those who get the electronic version need not despair, however. More envelopes are available at church. Pick one up; you'll know what to do with it.

So why do we do all this? We do it to lift up Jesus Christ, who gives us eternal life (John 3:16). Eternal life begins now, as we know the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives, and continues in heaven for eternity. Jesus wants us to share this gift with others (Matthew 28:19-20). Please pray with me that these activities of the church will spur our spiritual growth, and draw others into relationship with Christ as well. Peace.

Pastor Jonathan Dixon

# RFUMC Calendar – March 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 World Day of Prayer	2 4 – 7 PM Chili / Vegetable Soup Supper
3 Third Sunday of Lent; 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Sunday School	4 7:00 PM Board of Trustees	5	6 6:00 PM Lenten Study; 7:00 PM Choir Practice	7	8	9
10 Fourth Sunday of Lent; One Great Hour of Sharing; 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 Sunday School; 6:30 PM Finance and Administration Meeting; Daylight Saving Time Begins	11 6:00 PM United Methodist Men's Annual Meeting	12 7:00 PM United Methodist Women	13 12:00 PM Membership Team; 6:00 PM Lenten Study; 7:00 PM Choir Practice	14	15	16
17 Fifth Sunday of Lent; 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Coffee Fellowship; 10:35 AM Sunday School	18	19	20 6:00 PM Lenten Study; 7:00 PM Choir Practice	21	22	23
24 Palm / Passion Sunday; 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Sunday School	25	26	27 6:00 PM Lenten Study; 7:00 PM Choir Practice	28	29 Good Friday; 7:00 PM Service at First Baptist Church	30
31 Easter Sunday; 7:00 AM Sunrise Service; 8:00 AM Fellowship Breakfast; 9:30 AM Easter Worship; 10:30 AM Sunday School Activity						

## Looking Ahead...

April 7, Prentice Sermon Here  
 May 1, 6:00 PM Mother – Child Banquet  
 May 12, Mother's Day  
 May 19, Consecration Sunday  
 June 16, Father's Day  
*NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: MARCH 17*



## March Anniversaries

David and Cheryl Beckner    3/1  
 James and Mary Dial         3/10/1990

## March Birthdays

Arthur Gowin	3/2/1936
Carol Wells	3/4/1939
Mary Dial	3/11/1965
Richard Carr	3/14/1947
Jeff Koger	3/19/1960
Liam Byers	3/20/2008
William Kleban	3/21/1925
Doris Davis	3/24/1927
Jerry McCullough	3/25/1939
Craig Thomas	3/26
Thomas Stroisch	3/30/1949

# Trustee Happenings

Well, the parsonage kitchen project is well underway! FIRST!! The trustees would like to thank Jonathan and Ellen Dixon for their patience.....not only for how long it took to begin this project, but also for putting up with all the dirt, mess and the disorganization that has taken over their home. Hopefully within the next thirty days it will be cleaner, brighter, more efficient and much more organized. The trustee men have taken out the old kitchen and the wall between the kitchen and dining room, put up a wall on the south side of the new kitchen, plasterboard and taping done, new electric lines installed, new main electric box put in the basement, new ceiling put up and many more jobs completed to prepare for the new layout. The kitchen has been measured by the cabinet people and the cabinets are ordered, the appliances ordered, flooring selected.

It has been amazing how this congregation comes up with the necessities to get the big jobs done. Thank you to the congregation for donations and labors; thank you to folks who had memorials they donated to this project; thank you to the United Methodist Women for their generous donation; thank you to the United Methodist Men for their donations and for their labors. We still needed a little extra finances and that was supplied through our latest loan. So thank you also to the SCRIP program and to all who use the gift cards, for that program's profits are paid directly on the principal of our loan.

## Church Directory

There are some plans being made for a pictorial directory for the Riverton United Methodist Church. Sharon Caldwell and Ellen Dixon are co-chairs of this effort and volunteers are needed to put this together.

There will an inquiry as to what information you want in the directory such as names, birthdays, phone numbers, addresses--home and PO # as needed for mailing information. More information is to follow. Any ideas about the directory will be welcome.

## 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 Education Committee. The committee organizes and plans the curriculum for Sunday School and for Vacation Bible School. They also assist the volunteers that teach Sunday School and VBS. They work with the volunteers from St. James Catholic Church who we partner with for VBS.

This committee meets as needed. If you have any questions or are interested in joining the committee, or teaching a Sunday School class or assisting with teaching VBS or helping out in another way, please contact a member of the committee. Current committee members are: Grace Carriker, Karen Koger, Nadine MacKenzie (Chairperson) and Hope McKenzie (VBS Chair).

# Scrip Update

During the Christmas Season, we had some terrific orders for gift cards. We hope that everyone who received one of these cards as a "gift" was thrilled with the thoughts of helping out the church and being able to pick out an item of their choice to their personal liking.

Easter is coming.....quickly! Those Easter rabbits would love to be able to hand out gift cards to one and all. Even children love getting a gift card from Chuck-e-Cheese or Cold Stone Creamery. Those hard-to-buy-for teens enjoy getting cards for the sport stores and clothing stores.....and have you ever seen a teen who wasn't hungry? Steak-n-Shake, Taco Bell, Buffalo Wild Wings, etc., they would all fill your needs in an Easter Basket.

The next order dates will be March 3, March 17. The days to pick up your Scrip orders will be March 10, and March 24.

# Quilting News

Busy fingers, busy mouths, busy bodies.....that is the group of quilters that meet on Wednesday mornings. Some of the group are experienced quilters and some are slow quilters and some are learning quilters. Everyone is invited. One quilt is almost finished and another is just getting started. There is plenty of work to be done and plenty of topics to discuss. Come and join the fun.

# Greetings from your Certified Lay Minister

The District Committee on Ministry of the Sangamon River District approved me for ministry at our church. I am so pleased to be available to you. I will be at the church on Wednesdays from 8:30 - 2:30 and available to listen or have "coffee". A piece of information is that the #211 is available for anyone who has a question about services available in Sangamon County. This is being done by the United Way and is new to the area this year. I have a lot of information regarding services and will be glad to help in any way you may need. Also the rural Transportation for the County is getting set to start in a couple months. This is door-to-door service for a nominal fee. More information will be coming soon.

I'd also like to offer up the following words of thanks:

- The trustees for all the labor they are putting out at the Parsonage remodel. Please contact Tom, Ron, Mel and any trustee if you would like to volunteer.
- Kim for her many hours and welcome service on the overhead material we enjoy each week. Nice pictures etc.
- The choir and listeners wish to thank Carly for the instruction and caring as well as spiritual support that is available each week at our Choir rehearsal and Sunday anthems.

We truly are blessed to work with such talented giving people.

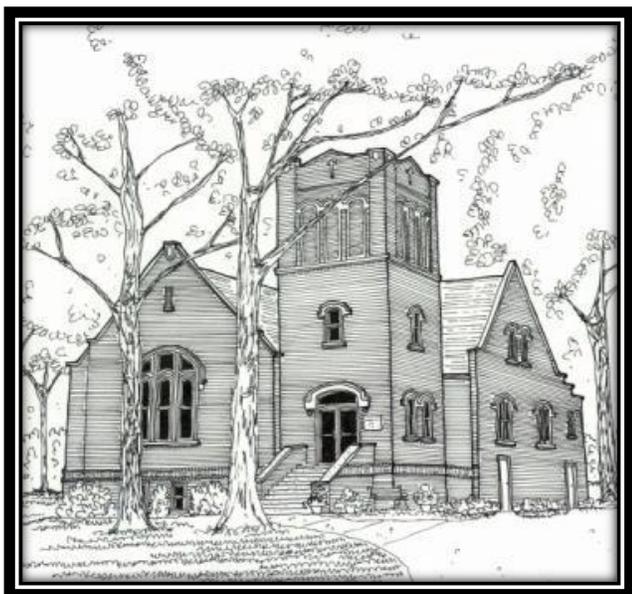
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## **The United Methodist Women**

will meet

Tuesday, March 12 at 7 P.M.

Program: Betty Peel  
Hostesses: Ellen Dixon and Betty Peel

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

We still have a few pecan pieces at \$8.50.