

June 1, 2013

The Oaks



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

More Scratchings from the Dixon Pencil

Have you noticed that some days go better than others? Mine too. So I want to pass along some insights I gained from an article in *Ministry Magazine*. In the September 2012 issue, Vicki Griffin¹ raised the question above to get us thinking about our attitudes. Her thesis was that our mind-set largely determines our successes and failures. Sometimes our attitudes even outweigh the facts of a particular case. She cites social psychologist Carol Dweck on a difference between “fixed” and “growth” mind-sets. The fixed mind-set tends to think such things about us as intelligence, personality and abilities are inborn and cannot be changed. Such persons are more or less “stuck” in whatever situations they find themselves.

People with growth mind-sets, on the other hand, recognize that we all differ in aptitudes and temperaments, but they also believe that we can grow and change. With this mind-set, people still face obstacles and criticism, but they persist and try to get better or smarter. Instead of resignation or, worse, jealousy at others’ success, they are inspired by it. They tend to be positive, to trust others, and to be more forgiving.

Victor Frankl was a Jew imprisoned at Auschwitz during World War II. He survived and eventually became a renowned psychologist and Nobel Prize winner. Griffin quotes him as saying, “Everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of the human freedoms – to choose one’s attitude in any given set of circumstances.” We can choose how we respond and how we think. Thinking is like any other habit; we can change it with practice.

A clinical psychiatrist, John Ratey, affirms that we are not prisoners of our genes or environment. He says, “Poverty, alienation, drugs, hormonal imbalances, and depression do not dictate failure.” Then he adds, “Wealth, acceptance, vegetables, and exercise don’t guarantee success.” There is always room for change through experience, choice, or even chance.

What lessons can we learn from all this? We can learn to identify fixed mind-set thinking in ourselves. We can deliberately choose to replace it with a growth mind-set, again and again if necessary. And we can turn to the Bible and our faith for direction and power.

Recall the words of Jesus in Matthew 11:28-29. “Come to me, all you that are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble of heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” The “yoke” Jesus refers to is a piece of equipment used on oxen to enable them to do ordinary tasks, like plowing fields for the farmer. Jesus is using it as a metaphor, a symbol of coming under control to accomplish the tasks before us. We can apply the metaphor to letting the attitude of Christ enable us to make positive choices and develop habitual positive attitudes.

¹ Vicki Griffin, “How’s your attitude, Pastor?” *Ministry Magazine* (September 2012), 30.

Pastor Jonathan Dixon

RFUMC Calendar – May 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Adult Bible Class	3 7:00 PM Board of Trustees	4	5 9:00 AM Quilting; 9 - 12 AM Certified Lay Minister at Church	6	7	8 7:30 AM United Methodist Men
			Annual Conference in Peoria			
9 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Adult Bible Class; 6:30 PM Finance and Administration Meeting	10	11 7:00 PM United Methodist Women	12 9:00 AM Quilting; 9 - 12 AM CLM at Church; 12:00 PM Membership Team	13	14	15
16 Father's Day 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Coffee Fellowship; 10:35 AM Adult Bible Class	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Adult Bible Class	24	25	26	27	28 6:30 PM VBS Program, with snacks to follow	29
5:30 – 8:00 PM Vacation Bible School						
30 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Adult Bible Class						

Looking Ahead...

July 9, UMW Indoor Picnic
 September 8, United Methodist Women Sunday
 September 22, Bring a Friend Sunday
 October 12, Chili Supper
 October 31, Trunk-er Treat
 November 10, United Methodist Men Sunday
 November 24, Community Thanksgiving Service

June Anniversaries

John and Erin Martincic	June 2, 2007
Scott and Shawn Binion	June 3, 2006
Ron and Cheryl Armintrout	June 7, 1970
Mike and Barbara Lucas	June 23, 1976

June Birthdays

Kim Beckey	June 4
Leigh Anne Logsdon	June 5, 1984
Patsy Skaggs	June 5, 1947
Ken Carriker	June 12
June Hallford	June 12
Doranne Julian	June 12, 1949
Kelsey Greenwood	June 13, 2002
Michael Pugh	June 18
Marilyn Kresse	June 20
Scott Pantier	June 20, 1995
Marjorie Todd	June 20
Avett Shank	June 21, 2010
Sarah Carriker	June 26, 1996
Marion Upton	June 26, 1941
Brett Pearson	June 27, 1968
Cindy Logsdon	June 28, 1957
Darlene Schermerhorn	June 30

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: JUNE 16

St. James Catholic Church, in cooperation with Riverton United Methodist Church
invites children from throughout the community to attend

God's Backyard Bible Camp

Vacation Bible School



Sunday, June 23 through Friday, June 28
5:30-8:30 p.m.

FREE and open to all! Pre-registration is not required. Kids from Pre-K (three years old) through seventh grade (those who will enter seventh grade in Fall 2013) are invited

Come as you are!

We encourage kids to bring a non-perishable food item for the Riverton Food Pantry each evening.

VBS takes place at St. James Catholic Church, 112 North Sixth Street in Riverton (next to Riverton Elementary School), with the closing program at the Riverton United Methodist Church at 6:30 on Friday, June 28 (429 East Lincoln in Riverton). Contact Hope McKenzie, 217-416-7892 or RivertonVBS@gmail.com for more information.

Each day, kids will participate in music, skits, crafts, games and fun! And it's FREE!!



Kids, get ready for an outdoor adventure that starts in your own backyard! Each day begins at Backyard Bash with large-group music and fun, where kids will be introduced to a Bible story and a life focus. Then after kids experience the other activities of the day, kids gather back to Backyard Bash to review, to be encouraged, and to be motivated to serve others.

Other sites include Backyard Bible Club, where kids will explore the Bible story in a variety of interactive ways and then apply the story by completing the "It's Your Serve!" challenges; Backyard Food & Fun, where kids have time to move around, have fun, and fill up; Clothesline Creations, where kids have fun creating crafts that are service-oriented; and Community Corner, where kids hear stories about community servants and will get motivated to be involved in community projects! And all these fun activities connect to the Bible story, Bible Memory, and the life focus of serving!

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 Stewardship Committee.

This committee organizes the details and activities for Consecration Sunday. Their goal is to encourage the stewardship of the congregation either through financial support or other talents that each member can give to the church and its missions. This committee meets as needed. If you have any questions or are interested in joining the committee, please contact a member of the committee. Current committee members are: Ron Armintrout, Grace Carriker, Ellen Dixon, Rose Hughes, Tom Pantier, Jeri Sucech and Marsha Sutton.

Trustees

We are winding down in the parsonage remodeling of the kitchen/dining areas. It is hopeful that by June 1 this project will be complete!

We want to thank EVERYONE for any and all work/materials donated. It has aided in the completion. The Dixons will be able to get back to having a "normal" home life.

The next items on the list include (but not limited to) checking out the roof on the parsonage, the updating of the downstairs bath/utility areas, some changes needed in the upstairs bath. We are thankful that the basement has been dry--so far--since the exterior drainage work was done last year. We are planning on working the garden area on the southeast side of the church and putting in new plants.

We are grateful to Scott Pantier for his assistance to mow the church yard this summer. The sign-up sheet is at the rear of the sanctuary to either mow the yard yourself or pay \$25.00 for Scott to do the work.

Quilters

We have had a couple weeks off from quilting in May, but the quilters are ready to start the stitching again. They have two big quilts in the frames, so there is plenty of room for everyone.

Just recently a quilt top has been donated to the quilters to complete and do with as they desire. However, help is needed. This is several strips to be embroidered. We have the strips, the threads, colors and needles. We do need help to do the embroidering. If you like to do that type of craft, please see a quilter and they will be glad to get the appropriate items for you.

The United Methodist Women

Will meet: Tuesday, June 11th at 7:00 p.m.

Program: Ellen Dixon

Hostesses: Nancy Hermes & Doris Lamkey

We welcome all the ladies of the Church.

Come see us in the fellowship hall.

SCRIP

YOU DID IT!!!! You have used enough gift cards so far this year that we will be able to pay \$1,000.00 on the principal of the church's loan. A great job! Congratulations!

Now let's get busy and use more of those cards. Graduation gifts! Shower gifts! College bound assistance! Birthdays! Anniversaries! Shower gifts for brides/grooms! Shower gifts for babies/families! Wedding gifts! Well, you get the picture. It is hoped that you personally use the cards just to go shopping and eating out.

Whatever you need the gift cards for.....thank you very much for considering this program.

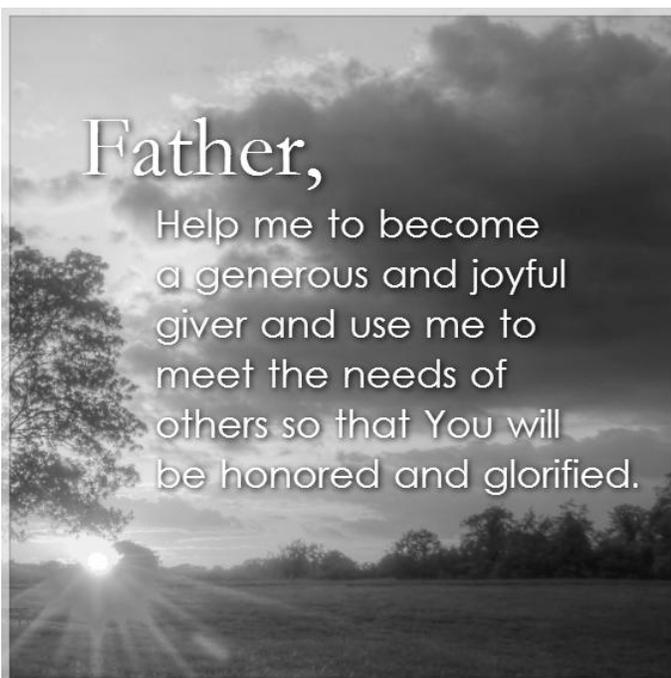
Graduates

High School

Megan Mackenzie, Lanphier
Scott Pantier, Riverton

College

Lisa Dungey, Lincoln Land Community College
Mary Dial, Benedictine University, Springfield
Samantha Sloman, Millikin University
Chelsea Hermes, University of Illinois, Chicago
Ben Lyons, MA, Southern Illinois U. Carbondale



Father,

Help me to become
a generous and joyful
giver and use me to
meet the needs of
others so that You will
be honored and glorified.

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.*

Riverton First United Methodist
429 East Lincoln
Riverton, IL 62561



Address Correction Requested

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

THANKS FOR THE INTEGRITY

This month I wish to stop and appreciate the offering counters who faithfully volunteer to count the offerings so our Financial Secretary and Treasurer are not in a position to be questioned. This integrity and faithfulness to honesty is a great service for those who work with the money that flows through our Church ministries. Thank you for your faithfulness. God sees our every deed.

Ellen Dixon

