

October 1, 2013

# The Oaks



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

## Hill Climbing

Life can sometimes seem like an uphill climb, can't it?

Former President Richard M. Nixon wrote a book titled *Six Crises*. One day when he was autographing *Six Crises* at a bookstore, he asked the buyer whom to autograph his book to. The man smiled and said, "You just met your seventh crisis; my name is Stanislaus Wojeczleschki!"

A despairing man confessed to his pastor, "My life is really in bad shape."

"How bad?" the pastor inquired.

Burying his head in his hands, the man moaned, "I'll tell you how bad--all I've got left is God."

The pastor's face lit up. "I'm happy to assure you that a person with nothing left but God has more than enough for great victory!" Maybe you've been there.

Some of the Psalms are titled "A song of ascents." It means, "A song to sing as you climb up the hill." When life seems like an "uphill climb" to you, can you find a song to sing? Psalm 121, one of those songs of ascents, begins: *I lift up my eyes to the hills. Where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.*

In these first two verses, the psalmist is moving his focus from his **problems** to God's **power**. The people of God are climbing the hill to the temple on Mount Zion. They are at the point in the journey where there is a lot of effort expended and no results yet. They encourage each other along the way by singing. Why are they climbing this hill? What's the point of this journey? To worship the Almighty, most Powerful God, the God who made the heavens and the earth. Whatever problems we may bring to church, we know we are laying them at the feet of a God who created the universe and set the natural laws in motion. When we recall the power of the God we serve, we gain new perspective on our problems, and on the possibilities for God to redeem our situation.



Most of the religions of the world are like this psalm, reaching up toward God. But our Christian faith is unique. We believe that God came down to us in Jesus of Nazareth. God can also be a powerful presence in our lives in the continuing work of the Holy Spirit. Yes, life is still an uphill climb, but we trust in the Lord who made the heavens and earth. God can bring us, singing, through the climb of life.

Pastor Jonathan Dixon

# RFUMC Calendar – October 2013

| SUNDAY   | MONDAY                               | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY                          | FRIDAY | SATURDAY   |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|--------|--|
|  |                                      | 1   | 2<br>9:00 AM Quilting;<br>9 – 12 CLM at<br>Church; 7:00 PM<br>Choir Practice   | 3                                 | 4      | 5  |
| 6<br>World Communion<br>Sunday 9:30 AM<br>Worship; 10:30 AM<br>Adult Bible Class       | 7<br>7:00 PM<br>Board of<br>Trustees | 8<br>7:00 PM<br>United<br>Method-<br>ist Wom-<br>en | 9<br>9:00 AM Quilting;<br>9 – 12 CLM at<br>Church; 7:00 PM<br>Choir Practice   | 10                                | 11     | 12<br>4-6:30 PM<br>Chili/Vegeta-<br>ble Soup<br>Supper |
| 13<br>9:30 AM Worship; 10:30<br>AM Coffee Fellowship;<br>10:35 AM Adult Bible<br>Class | 14                                   | 15  | 16<br>9:00 AM Quilting;<br>9-12 CLM at<br>Church; 7:00 PM<br>Choir Practice    | 17                                | 18     | 19   |
| 20<br>9:30 AM Worship; 10:30<br>AM Adult Bible Study                                   | 21                                   | 22  | 23<br>9:00 AM Quilting;<br>9-12 AM CLM at<br>Church; 7:00 PM<br>Choir Practice | 24                                | 25     | 26   |
| 27<br>Reformation Sunday<br>9:30 AM Worship; 10:30<br>AM Adult Bible Study             | 28                                   | 29  | 30<br>9:00 AM Quilting;<br>9-12 AM CLM at<br>Church; 7:00 PM<br>Choir Practice | 31<br>6-8 PM<br>Trunk-er<br>Treat |        |  |

## October Anniversaries

Andrew and Lesta Fitzpatrick 10/6/2007  
 Bob and Rose Alice Hughes 10/28/1961

## Looking Ahead...

November 3, 5:00 PM Church Conference  
 November 10, United Methodist Men  
 November 13, Teddy Bear Community Thanksgiving Dinner Here  
 November 24, 6:00 PM Community Thanksgiving Service  
 November 30, Hanging of the Greens  
 December 1, Advent Begins  
 December 3, UMW Christmas Party  
 December 7, Parsonage Open House  
 December 24, Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

*NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: OCTOBER 20*

## October Birthdays

|                   |            |
|-------------------|------------|
| James Dial        | 10/12/1962 |
| George Skaggs     | 10/12/1945 |
| Rose Cessna       | 10/13      |
| Evelyn Gandy      | 10/15/1942 |
| Anna Marie Kresse | 10/15      |
| Mary Pugh         | 10/16/1968 |
| John Martincic    | 10/18/1974 |
| Roger Pfeiffer    | 10/20/1959 |
| Tyler Sloman      | 10/20/1979 |
| Vickie Bruce      | 10/21/1955 |
| Yvonne Mann       | 10/21      |
| Ryan Pfeiffer     | 10/21/1993 |
| Jud Baumann       | 10/27      |
| Samantha Sloman   | 10/29/1982 |

## Memorials

We are sure that you, at some time during the year, admire our beautiful church yard with all the huge, old trees. The trustees have invested a lot of time, effort and money to keep these trees healthy, by trimming off dead branches, fertilizing the trees and cleaning up the fallen leaves. However, all living things will die eventually.

It is necessary to consider planting new trees to keep our yard looking great. The trustees thought it would be nice to allow you to donate to a tree in memory of a loved one. It is not necessary to "buy" a whole tree if you don't wish to, but to contribute to a memory. George Skaggs will be doing the ordering of trees and taking care of the new trees. We need to begin replacing our oak trees as we have lost some just this year.

If this is a project to which you would like to contribute, please mark your donation to be toward a memorial tree. Thank you.

## Trustee News

The parsonage kitchen is complete, much more functional and attractive. The living room and hall have had the old carpet removed. The hardwood floors underneath that old carpet have been repaired and refinished. The end result is fantastic. Again, the trustees thank the Dixons for their patience in living in all the mess for so long. The end result is great.

In the near future, the trustees will be moving the exterior lift door toward the inside about six inches. This will be a work intensive project that will need to be completed quickly. If you feel you might have some expertise handling metals, please contact a trustee about helping.



## The United Methodist Women

Will meet: Tuesday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M.

Program: Nadine Mackenzie  
Hostesses: Chelsea Hermes & Ellen Dixon

United Methodist Chili Supper October 12

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

## BOX TOPS--Labels for Education--My Coke Rewards



These are ways we can help kids and their programs. Cunningham Children's Home in Urbana is run by the United Methodist Women and the BOX TOPS are the ones they can use. Give these to Rose Hughes as she and others take them to district and Conference meetings and then they are taken to Cunningham. OUR RIVERTON SCHOOLS and TRI-CITY SCHOOLS can use the rest. Riverton reports that they can get good rewards from these programs. You can bring them weekly to Ellen Dixon and she will be sure they get to the School. INB, IGA, and Hawk's Nest also collects these for the Riverton School. At Riverton the PEP uses the money for field trips and family activities. Last year these items netted \$5,100!

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Address Correction Requested

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## Quilters News

On Wednesday, September 18, the quilters set aside their thimbles. They brought in their sewing machines, cutting boards, cutters, irons and lots of material. They had hoped to have lots of additional help making the school bags for the mission project for the United Methodist Women. However, the help was on the slim side and not many bags were able to be completed. Lots of material has already been cut, waiting for ironing and sewing. After some discussion, the ladies have decided to put this project on a 'back burner' till after the chili/soup supper and the 'Trunk or Treat' party.

So about the 6th of November another day will be scheduled to work on making these school bags. If you can iron, cut or sew, please schedule some time to assist on this project. Should you have any questions, please contact Doris Lamkey.

Besides that project, the quilters will continue to complete their own project, which is a large quilt made of antique hankies. They are always willing to help teach anyone to quilt. So come on in and sit a while.