

February 1, 2014

The Oaks



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

SCRATCHINGS FROM THE DIXON PENCIL

In last month's newsletter we included a list of officers and committees in the church. It tells us who takes care of the church property, who handles money, who teaches classes, who advises the pastor on worship etc. etc. This month I want to talk a little more about those positions in the church. (In doing so I am borrowing some thoughts from the Rev. Dr. Mickey Anders, a pastor in Kentucky.)

It has been said that there is a huge difference between having a job at the church and having a ministry. Anders adds:

"If you are doing it because no one else will, it's a job.

If you are doing it to serve the Lord, it's a ministry.

If you are doing it just well enough to get by, it's a job.

If you are doing it to the very best of your ability, it's a ministry.

If you do it only so long as it doesn't interfere with other activities, it's a job.

If you are committed to staying with it even when it means letting go of other things, it's a ministry.

It's hard to get excited about a job. It's almost impossible to not get excited about a ministry.

An average church is filled with people doing jobs. A great church is filled with people involved in ministry."

As we move through 2014, may our work be done as ministry, not just as jobs.

I also called attention last month to the fact that this is our 140th year as a congregation. Some of you have commented, saying things like, "We should get T-shirts." Maybe we should. Maybe we should plan some celebration events. Think about it. Pray about it. Then let's talk.

Pastor Jonathan Dixon

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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 – February 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Adult Bible Class	3	4	5 9:00 AM Quilting; 9 - 12 CLM at Church; 1:00 & 6:00 PM Bible Study; 7:00 PM Choir Practice	6	7	8 6:00 PM Family Valentine Dinner
9 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Adult Bible Class; 5:30 PM Trustees; 6:30 PM Finance and Administration meeting	10	11 7:00 PM United Methodist Women	12 9:00 AM Quilting; 9 - 12 CLM at Church; 1:00 & 6:00 PM Bible Study; 7:00 PM Choir Practice	13	14	15
16 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Adult Bible Class	17	18 6:00 PM United Methodist Men	19 9:00 AM Quilting; 9 - 12 CLM at Church; 1:00 & 6:00 PM Bible Study; 7:00 PM Choir Practice	20	21	22
23 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Adult Bible Class	24	25	26 9:00 AM Quilting; 9 - 12 AM CLM at Church; 1:00 & 6:00 PM Bible Study; 7:00 PM Choir Practice	27	28	

Looking Ahead...

March 1, Chili Supper
 March 4, 5:30 – 7:00 PM Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
 March 5, 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service
 March 18, U M Men Annual Meeting
 April 13, Palm Sunday
 April 18, 7:00 PM Good Friday
 April 20, Easter Sunday
 May 7, Mother – Child Banquet

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 16



God is Not Mad at You

God is Not Mad at You is the book on which we will be basing our WEDNESDAY X2 Bible Study.

We will be exploring the scriptures in the book and seeing what they say about how God feels about us.

FEBRUARY WEDNESDAYS 1pm or 6pm – for an hour – starting on the hour-- at the church, Riverton 1st United Methodist. This is for anyone who wants to learn more about the commonly held thought that God may be mad.

Trustees

The finishing touches are being done at the parsonage. Many folks had the privilege of attending the Christmas Open House that Mrs. Dixon always has and they were able to see what a difference it has made in the living arrangements of the home. This has always been a home to be proud of, but now it is much more useful and family-friendly, as well as super attractive. For those who missed the open house, well.....you will have to wait till next Christmas. FYI.....the food is always great at her open house! (*Pastor's editorial note: You can come by for a look before next Christmas; just call ahead and Ellen will give you the hospitality tour.*)

The Trustees have been working on installing and adjusting a new exterior door for the church's lift. It has been a process, but we hope it will soon be approved by the State of Illinois.

The next undertaking by the Trustees will be the parsonage basement. It has been their desire to improve the downstairs bathroom and build an actual utility room area, using some of the old cabinets they saved from the church kitchen. We will not begin this project until money has been appropriated for the renovation.

At a recent meeting, the trustees were reminded about the church's loan with CEFCU. It was brought to their attention just how much money has been donated to be used toward just the principal of this loan. The general budget and the trustee budget have been making the monthly payments; but there has been money designated especially for the loan principal. This is helping to get the loan paid down faster. The trustees would like to thank everyone for their generosity. It would be great to get this debt paid off.

February Birthdays

Keaton Martincic	2/4/2008
Les Hendricks	2/8/1931
Mel Allison	2/11/1947
Roberta Bernahl	2/11/1929
Aden Byers	2/14/2005
Melissa Pantier	2/16/1962
David Beckner	2/17
Jeri Sucech	2/19/1945
Devan Martincic	2/22/2001
Carly Shank	2/24
Katie Sutton	2/24/1979
Kim Rusciolelli	2/26/1954
Taylor Binion	2/28/2009



Church Directories

HELLO!!! Not a holler but excited. The directories are here!

#1 enjoy and learn who is who

#2 Please give any changes to Ellen Dixon gramto6@sbcglobal.net or call at 691-7676

#3 a paper copy is getting ready with the e-mails and additional phone numbers that we could not include in the directories because of space. If you have changes in these give Ellen the data.

Quilters

The quilters took some time off to make the school/book bags to be sent off to the missions. Then the weather kept the quilters at home a couple of weeks and the holidays fell on the quilting days.....so they are just getting back to their routine. The quilt with the antique hankies is nearly complete and a new quilt is in the frame, waiting to be started on. Anytime you want to learn to quilt, come on down on Wednesday, we begin at 9:00 A.M. sharp!

Scrip News

This holiday season, many of you used the gift card program. It has been a very busy time for the Scrip people to keep up with you. However, we should soon have another \$1,000.00 to pay toward the principal of the church's loan!

Don't forget to use your Scrip cards during the Valentine Holiday and start thinking about how you will use them for Easter. Thank you for your support with this project.

February Anniversaries

Ron and Cheryl Atkins	2/11/1967
Butch and Pat Baker	2/14
Jerry and Judy McCullough	2/18/1970
Roger and Missy Pfeiffer	2/27/1988



The United Methodist Women

Will meet Tuesday, February 11th at 7:00 PM

Program: Marsha Sutton

Hostesses: Nancy & Chelsea Hermes

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

Notes from your Certified Lay Minister

Some information on Health Insurance--Family Guidance Centers (217) 544-9858 Ext 127-Audrey Davis, IPC, can help you know how to proceed.

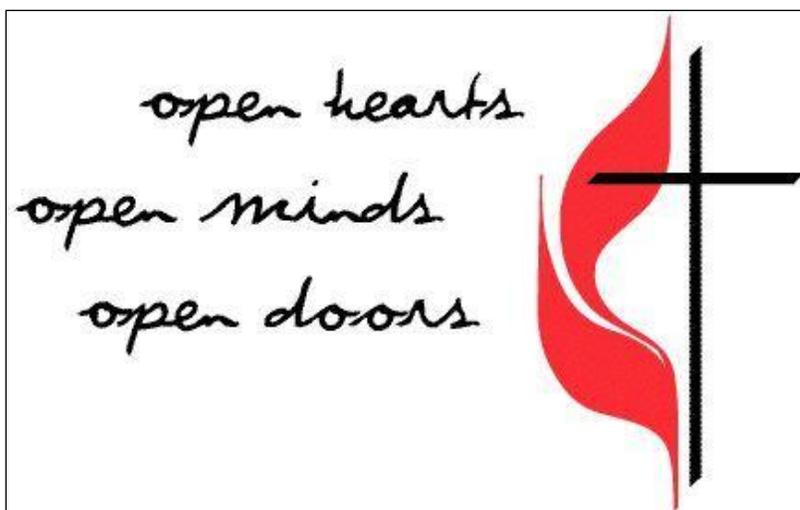
REMEMBER 311 is a resource line to find or give any resources for problem solving. This is run by United Way and they give informational articles in the State Journal Register of agencies and groups that provide services.

Any questions and Ellen Dixon (217-691-7676) will help you find a place to give services and help you find the place may meet your need.

Thanks-gratitude-appreciation goes this month to Hope and Nadine and Megan for the excellent ministry in Christian Education to our youth in the church. They are learning the Lord's Prayer and maybe the entire congregation can do this also. Practice it at home and see if you can do it without the screen to aid you. Good Luck.

The Gift of Generosity

The Finance Committee thanks everyone who has supported Riverton United Methodist Church this past year with their time, talent and financial contributions and look forward to support from all of our members in the year ahead. If you need a convenient way to make regular offerings in the coming year, we encourage you to look into our electronic giving options.



As the pace of life speeds up, you may find electronic giving a most welcome way to make contributions. Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) is safe, easy, confidential and convenient. EFT provides the peace of mind in knowing your financial support is automatically provided.

This past year the Church had a total income from tithes, memorials and other contributions of \$157,768.93 of which \$126,021.02 was directed to the annual budget of the Church. We finished the year \$5,280.58 behind the budget need for 2013. However, we have paid all the bills, made all of our conference apportionments and through your generosity, have provided support to a missionary and several other organizations.

Tom Pantier
Finance Chairman and Financial Secretary

Riverton First United Methodist
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Address Correction Requested

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WEBSITE: www.rivertonfirstumc.org

Connect with Riverton First United Methodist

NEWSLETTER: Are you still receiving this newsletter in print? Consider doing something for the environment in 2014 and ask to be added to our email newsletter list. We will start sending you the newsletter over email rather than through the mail. Send an email to rvtnumc@sbcglobal.net and identify yourself and the email address you would like us to use for the newsletter.

WEBSITE: If you haven't visited our website for awhile, browse to www.rivertonfirstumc.org.

FACEBOOK: Search for Riverton United Methodist Church for very up-to-date photos, videos, and more. Thanks to some of our members for their updates and postings.

