

May 1, 2014

The Oaks



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

SCRATCHINGS FROM THE DIXON PENCIL

You've probably heard this one before, like in fourth grade, but I'll tell it anyway. If April showers bring May flowers, what do May flowers bring. Pilgrims. Ha ha.

That's what's on my mind this time, May flowers. (Not Mayflowers, as in Pilgrim ships, but flowers that bloom in May.) I'll start at the end of May and work my way from there toward the beginning.

Near the end of May, the 30th historically, we celebrate Memorial Day. But nowadays we observe it on the fourth Monday, no matter what date that falls on. My research indicates that Memorial Day, previously designated as Decoration Day, came about right after the Civil War. There are several stories about its origin, however.

One of the stories is that it all got started in 1866, when a group of southerners marched through what was left of the war-torn town to the local cemetery. They decorated all the graves, Union as well as Confederate. The mothers, daughters and widows had buried their dead. Now they were burying their hatred. The time for healing had come.

So Memorial Day began. It was not the anniversary of any great battle, or the beginning of a war, or even of the signing of a treaty. It came about in May because that's when the flowers bloom, the flowers to decorate the graves.

Spring comes and flowers bloom, through all the vicissitudes of human life. We have wars and treaties and holidays and business. But God keeps the perpetual calendar. After fall and winter run their course, God sends us May flowers.

And it's a good thing, too. Because May not only has Memorial Day, but Mother's Day and graduations. Both of these are flower-giving occasions. So God made lots of flowers.

The answer to the riddle above, "What do May Flowers bring?" might be joy. Joy of remembering the sacrifice of those who fought and died for our country, for appreciating the mothers who brought us into this world, and for acknowledging the accomplishments of graduates at all levels. Not to mention the joy of the beauty and scent that the May flowers bring.

Enjoy May; enjoy the flowers; enjoy Spring; and enjoy the many blessings that God brings to us.

Pastor Jonathan Dixon

RFUMC Calendar – May 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 National Day of Prayer	2	3
4 9:30 AM Worship, including Prayer for Healing of Human Hurts; 10:30 AM Adult Bible Class	5	6 7:00 PM Trustees	7 9 – 12 CLM at Church; 1:00 PM Bible Study; 6:00 PM Mother – Child Banquet	8	9	10
11 Mother's Day 9:30 AM Wor- ship; 10:30 AM Coffee Fellow- ship; 10:35 AM Adult Bible Class	12	13 5:30 PM UMW Ladies' Night Out at Chesapeake	14 9 – 12 CLM at Church; 12:00 PM Member- ship Team; 1:00 PM Bible Study; 6:00 PM Bible Study	15	16	17 9:00 AM Baccalaure- ate for RHS seniors and families; 10:00 AM Brunch
18 9:30 AM Wor- ship; 10:30 AM Adult Bible Class	19	20 6:00 PM United Methodist Men	21 9 – 12 CLM at Church; 1:00 PM Bible Study; 6:00 PM Bible Study	22	23 7:00 PM Teddy Bear Preschool Graduation Here	24
25 9:30 AM Wor- ship; 10:30 AM Adult Bible Class	26 Memorial Day ob- served	27	28 9 – 12 CLM at Church; 1:00 PM Bible Study; 6:00 PM Bible Study	29 5:30 – 7:30 PM Commu- nity Kick-off for Summer Lunch Pro- gram at Field of Dreams	30	31

Looking Ahead...

June 1, Outdoor Worship and Picnic
 June 15, Father's Day
 June 22 – 27 Vacation Bible School, in cooperation with St.
 James Church
 July 8, UMW Indoor Picnic
 August 3, Visiting Missionary, Connie Weick
 August 16, Ladies' Historical Tea
 September 7, Homecoming Service
 September 20, Beef – Noodle Dinner
 October 31, Trunk-er Treat
 November 9, UMM Sunday
 November 29, Church Outing - Way of Lights

Next Newsletter Deadline: May 18

May Birthdays

Beth Baumann	5/4
John Pearson	5/6/2004
Tracy Tester	5/8/1955
Joan Fritzeen	5/9
Joshua Higgins	5/11/2011
Saraha Higgins	5/11/2011
Rose Alice Hughes	5/13/1937
Judy McCullough	5/19/1945
Leanna Pantier	5/19/1993
Casey Stoneburner	5/22/1993
Cody Thomas	5/22/1996
Ann Sims	5/23/1997

Welcome to the 140th Anniversary of the Riverton First United Methodist Church

"Celebrating 140 years of Ministry"

Here is the list of activities that are being planned for the rest of this Calendar Year.

- May – order T-shirts
- May 29th – have a booth at the Kick-off of the Summer Lunch Program event at Field of Dreams
- June 1st – Outdoor Worship and Picnic on our grounds
- August 16th – Ladies' Tea with a guest speaker @ the church
- September 7th – Homecoming Service to Celebrate 140 years with lots of history and commemoration
- September will also have a hot dog roast scheduled
- November 29th – all-church outing to Our Lady of Snows near Belleville to view the white light display.

This is the schedule as planned by the Membership Committee and approved by the Administrative Council.

There are many opportunities for creative and helpful work on each of the events so we can honor all the work of those who have nurtured this church family for all these years.

Last but not least there is planned a **140 Good Deeds to do Challenge**. We are being challenged to do 140 good deeds in the remainder of this year.

Contact the church at 629-9720 or call 691-7676 to work on one or more events or give ideas of what you have for any of the events.

We are so looking forward to each of these times and more to come. Praise the Lord for 140 years of serving Him.

Thank You

Thanks to Butch Baker for using his trailer to take the sewing machines and bicycles to Midwest Mission Distribution Center on Wednesday the 23. We donated over 400 lbs.--that is how they measure donations!! The tour was terrific and much satisfaction was enjoyed!

May Anniversaries

Eric and Joan Fritzeen	5/2/1954
Thomas and Marjorie Todd	5/4/1958
George and Patsy Skaggs	5/7/1966
Arthur and Janet Gowin	5/24/198

The United Methodist Women

Will meet: Tuesday, May 13 at 5:30 p.m.

Ladies' night out at Chesapeake

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

Riverton First United Methodist
429 East Lincoln
Riverton, IL 62561



Address Correction Requested

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

Jungle Safari VBS 2014

Wild animals. Lush jungles. Slug-A-Bug Swamp and Zipline Bible Time. Experience all these and more while you explore the nature of God at Jungle Safari Vacation Bible School this summer.

Jungle Safari VBS will be held June 22-26 at St. James Catholic Church from 5:30-8:30 PM with a final closing performance on June 27 at Riverton United Methodist Church at 6:30 PM. All children ages 3-entering 7th grade are invited to participate. Youth and Adults can volunteer to help with crafts, music, games, meals or even lead children around for the evening. So grab a friend and head to the Jungle with us where we will explore the nature of God as our Creator, Provider, Protector, Savior, and King. We will partner with the Riverton Food Pantry again this year as the children continue to learn how important it is to serve. Participants are invited to donate non-perishable food items each night. There will also be a time to donate money to the Food Pantry at the Closing Program.



Mark your calendars and watch for more information about volunteering, donating food items, and registration in the weeks to come. Contact Hope McKenzie at 217-416-7892 or soccermom859@comcast.net for more information.