

June 1, 2014

The Oaks



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

SCRATCHINGS FROM THE DIXON PENCIL

The Hokey Pokey Church (Adopted from B.J. Funk, *Good News*, September/October 2013)

“You put your right foot in, you take your right foot out, you put your right foot in and you shake it all about; you do the hokey pokey and you turn yourself about; that’s what it’s all about!”

You’ve heard the song, no doubt. It continues until all the whole body has been in, and out, and shaken. And according to the song, that’s what it’s all about.

Welcome to the Hokey Pokey Church, where you are invited to put yourself into the circle of love, turn around, shake off old habits, and become a new person in Jesus Christ.

Every time we walk into church you are given the invitation to “put your whole self in.” Just putting one foot or one arm in isn’t enough. You are challenged to change your whole life. You can leave differently than you came. The news is compelling. You don’t have to stay the way you are now. You can be born again.

The good news started when Jesus came. Early in the Gospel of John we find him talking to a man named Nicodemus. He had heard about the teaching of Jesus and his miraculous signs, and he wanted to know what it was all about. Nicodemus met Jesus after dark; it’s safer that way. As he listens Nicodemus is clearly impressed. He seems just about ready to put his right foot in, but Jesus says a strange thing. “You must be born again.” Nicodemus pulls up short. “How can this be?” he asks. “Surely you don’t mean that I can enter my mother’s womb again!” Jesus explains that “one only enters the kingdom of God through repentance and spiritual rebirth.”

Nicodemus leaves wondering. What can this mean: born again? We can picture him alone wrestling with this teaching. Born again? Born again? Imagine him contemplating, privately and silently, putting one foot in, then the other, then an arm, shaking them all around. It’s a long and difficult process for him. He seems to stop short of putting his whole self into this new teaching. After all, he is a prominent religious leader, with credentials and with a reputation to consider. What would happen if he were to be identified with this Jesus?

But then Jesus is murdered, crucified by Roman authorities. Finally Nicodemus steps all in. He joins another believer to request Jesus’ body and give it a decent burial. By this time he seems unconcerned for his reputation as a religious leader. He knows now he must finish the dance, make sure he is born again. He accepts the radical challenge to enter the kingdom of God. He walks away from the tomb, puts his whole self into the circle, shakes his whole body free of religion and sin, turns himself around, and finds new life. He will never be the same again.

Church is the place where you can become new through relationship with Jesus Christ. Changed! Born again! Now that’s what it’s all about.

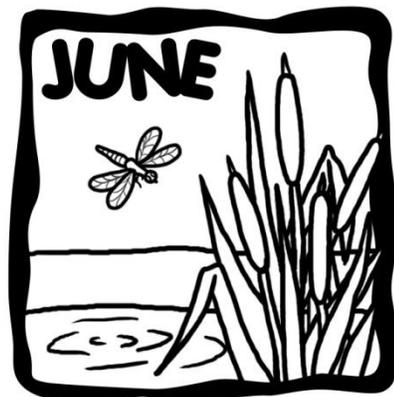
Pastor Jonathan Dixon

RFUMC Calendar – June 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9:30 AM Outdoor Worship; 11:00 AM Picnic on the Grounds (Games before and after)	2 7:00 PM Staff-Parish Relations Committee	3 6:00 PM Hospitality Committee; 7:00 PM Trustees	4 9:00 AM Quilting	5	6	7 4 – 7 PM Reception for Thomas Graduates (Zachary and Cody) at Navy Club
				4 – 7: Annual Conference in Peoria		
8 Pentecost Sunday 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Adult Bible Class; 6:30 PM Finance and Administration Meeting	9 Summer Lunch Program begins	10 7:00 PM United Methodist Women	11 9:00 AM Quilting	12	13	14
15 Father's Day 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Coffee Fellowship; 10:35 AM Adult Bible Class	16	17 6:00 PM United Methodist Men	18 9:00 AM Quilting	19	20	21
22 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Adult Bible Class	22 – 26: 5:30 -8:30 PM Vacation Bible School: <i>Jungle Safari</i> at St. James Church and Here				27 6:30 PM VBS Program, Here	28
29 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Adult Bible Class	30					

Looking Ahead...

August 3, Missionary Speaker: Connie Weick
 August 16, Ladies Historical Tea
 September 7, Homecoming Service
 November 29, Outing to the Way of Lights



Hello to the 140th Celebration Year!!

The booth at the Kick-off event-at the Field of Dreams on May 29th from 5:30-7, for the Riverton Summer Lunch Program, is well planned and we hope to see everyone there.

June 1st is our outdoor worship at 9:30 and Picnic lunch to follow with games and all. This is being created as this article is written.

T-shirts and Totes for \$9 are being ordered. If you have not yet ordered, let us know. The T-shirts will be in either yellow or blue as you choose. The tote will be printed in blue. Call the church and leave a message please.

What would you like to see happen at the Homecoming Celebration on September 7th? Your input is desired and appreciated.

Trustees

Another work day was scheduled for Saturday, May 24. Several small projects should be taken off the "repair list". They have been waiting for warmer weather to complete several items and that warm weather has come! They have repaired a downspout problem on the church; painted the exterior back doors; checked out the garage doors....the walk-in door and the actual garage doors; cleaned out the trustee garage; checked the exterior lights; adjusted the timers on the lights; removed the huge pile of leaves; and more! Summer is coming quickly, grass is growing. Scott Pantier will do a lot of the mowing, but help is always welcomed, especially with using a trimmer around the trees, curbs, etc. Come any time you are free to help.

Summer Lunch Program

The Riverton Summer Lunch Program is beginning on June 9th and it ends on August 8th from 10-12/12:30 Monday through Friday except on the 4th of July. You can track this on Facebook or you can call Ellen at 691-7676 to see how to volunteer or keep informed.

This is quite exciting as the School District works on activities and good nutrition for the Riverton School kids throughout the summer! Cooking happens at the Elementary School with meals being delivered to Lincoln Place, Riverton Baptist Church and Bissell Village. Any one from ages 18 and below can eat free.

They are still looking for people who can assist with the use of the computer bank that will be set up at the Elementary School on Tuesdays and Thursdays to be used for job searches and resume creation. You can volunteer daily or just one day a week, whatever your schedule allows.

June Birthdays

- 4, Kim Beckey
- 5, Patsy Skaggs (1947)
- 12, Melba Blakley
Ken Carriker
June Hallford
Dorane Julian (1949)
- 13, Kelsey Greenwood (2002)
- 16, Carrie Horn
- 18, Michael Pugh
- 20, Marilyn Kresse
Scott Pantier (1995)
Marjorie Todd
- 21, Avett Shank (2010)
- 26, Sarah Carriker (1996)
Marion Upton (1941)
- 27, Brett Pearson (1968)
- 28, Cindy Logsdon (1957)
- 29, Cora Martincic (2012)
- 30. Darlene Schermerhorn

SCRIP

This has been a great program for your church. The proceeds from this project pays down the principal of the church's loan. The order dates will be June 8 and 21, 2014. The pickup dates will be June 15 and 29. Please review the order sheet because we have a couple new businesses.

Thanks

1. to God for the opportunities He provides to serve and care for others and ourselves.
2. For being able to take ourselves to God in prayer and lay all the thoughts we have at His feet. Feel well knowing He is working on all of this.
3. For those that are planning and attending the 140th celebrations.
4. For all those that have been a part of this church in the past.
5. For the love that permeates our church family.

2014 Graduates

High School

Sarah Carriker, Riverton High School

Cody Thomas, Riverton High School

College

Mattie Edmonston, Roanoke College

Sarah Edmonston, William and Mary University

Zachary Thomas, Illinois College

Heidi Zapp, Millikin University

Wednesday's Bible Study

We are studying Bible Stories and reviewing the ones we may have heard in the past. You do not have to know the Bible already--and that is just the reason we study--because we want to learn and know more.

The previous month we have been seeing how God is inclusive and loves us all.

It happens at 1pm and 6pm on Wednesdays. You can come at either time; and it meets in the church -- upstairs.



The United Methodist Women

Will meet: Tuesday, June 10 at 7:00 p.m.

Hostesses: Grace Carriker & Janet Gowin

We welcome all the ladies of the Church.

Come see us in the fellowship hall.

Riverton First United Methodist
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Riverton, IL 62561



Address Correction Requested

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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.