

July 1, 2014

The Oaks



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

SCRATCHINGS FROM THE DIXON PENCIL

In 1874, 140 years ago, a group of Christians led by two women, Isabel Fyffe Deal and Mary Ann Rodgers, founded the Riverton Methodist Episcopal Church. The whole denomination was called Methodist Episcopal in those days. The word episcopal comes from the Greek word for bishop. The Methodists called themselves Episcopal because their structure was led by bishops. The original Methodists, like John and Charles Wesley, started as a branch of the Church of England, or Anglicans. After the Revolutionary War the Methodists on this side of the ocean organized as a separate denomination. (The Anglicans here also found it advantageous to change the name associated with old England, and are known to this day as Episcopalian.)

The Methodists eventually dropped the Episcopal part of their name and became simply The Methodist Church. In 1968 The Methodist Church merged with the Evangelical United Brethren to form the United Methodist Church, as we are now known.

That is how our Methodist Episcopal Church, as it is designated on the beautiful stained glass at the front of our sanctuary, became The Methodist Church, as indicated on the etched glass over our front doors. It is our outdoor sign that proclaims our current name First United Methodist Church. We are, after all, the first and only Methodist church in Riverton.

As you enter the church from the street to the pew you thus have a visual tour of our heritage with the changing names. The point is not to confuse, but to preserve the best and the beauty of our past. Other points of interest along the way are the plaques, wall hangings and stained glass windows that name individuals in our history. Some of those people named on the walls and windows are our own relatives. We claim them all as our spiritual forbears. Some of the décor has been added in my years here – paintings, crochet and calligraphy. We have also been blessed with a hand-made cross and light fixtures from the former Mechanicsburg church.

All around us we have reminders of our rich 140-year history. We are blessed. As we celebrate our history all this year we appreciate the sacrifice and toil that has enabled us to reach this point. But the church is not simply a museum. We are reminded of our past as we enter, but we also must remember the present and the future. Our responsibility to those who went before, to those yet to come, and to God, is to keep the movement going.

As we sit in worship we see the past all around on the walls and glass, as noted above. As we go out we leave that as memory. We pass through those front doors that bridge the older to the newer. Once outside we are near the sign that declares our current state. We are First United Methodist Church of Riverton. We are the link between our generation and the eternal church of Jesus Christ. Buildings and people come and go, but the church remains. We have come to this church, this place and time, so that we can go into the world of our day and share the gospel outside these walls. That is the reason for our existence. May we do it well!

Pastor Jonathan Dixon

RFUMC Calendar – July 2014

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|--------------------------|---|---|----------|-----------------------|----------|
| | | 1 | 2 9:00 AM Quilting | 3 | 4 Independence Day | 5 |
| July 1-15 Pastor's Vacation | | | | | | |
| 6 9:30 AM Worship, Rev. Paul Sims preaching; 10:30 AM Coffee Fellowship; 10:35 AM Adult Bible Study | 7 9:00 AM Quilting | 8 6:00 PM UMW In- door Picnic | 9 9:00 AM Quilting | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 9:30 AM Wor- ship, Ms. Nadine Mackenzie preaching; 10:30 AM Adult Bible Study | 14 | 15 6:00 PM United Methodist Men | 16 9:00 AM Quilting; 9 – 12 CLM at church; 12:00 PM Membership Committee; 6:00 PM Bible Study | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 9:30 AM Wor- ship; 10:30 AM Coffee Fellow- ship; 10:35 AM Adult Bible Study; 6:30 PM Finance and Ad- ministration Meeting | 21 | 22 | 23 9:00 AM Quilting; 9 – 12 CLM at church; 6:00 PM Bible Study | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 9:30 AM Wor- ship; 10:30 AM Adult Bible Study | 28 | 29 | 30 9:00 AM Quilting; 9 – 12 CLM at church; 6:00 PM Bible Study | 31 | | |

Special Events Coming Up

- August 3, Missionary, Connie Weick in worship
- August 16, Ladies' Historical Tea
- September 7, Homecoming Service
- November 29, Outing to Way of Lights
- December 6, Parsonage Open House



Quilting News

The quilters are about to finish up another beautiful quilt and will be needing another quilt top to put in their frames. If you have a top that needs to be quilted, please call Doris Lamkey at 629-9556 and let her know. We don't quilt as fast as we talk, but we all have a good time. Feel free to come join us any Wednesday morning.

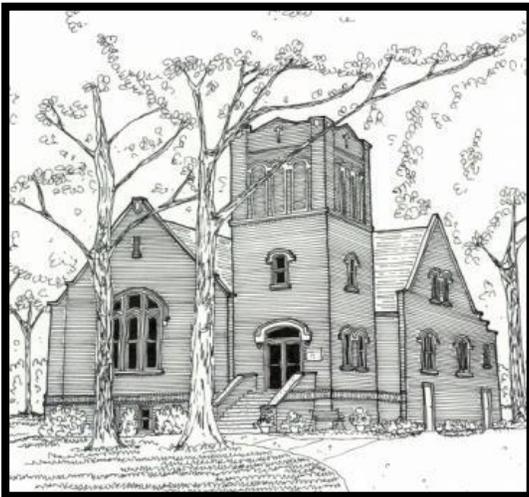
Scrip News

We are getting very close to having another \$1,000.00 to pay toward the principal of our church's loan. Thank you all for the great participation. You will notice that a new business has been added.....Dairy Queen! It is here just in time for all this hot weather we are having---nothing tastes better than a treat from the Dairy Queen!

For your information: If you should have a problem with any gift card that you have, please check the back of that card. You will see an "800" number to call for assistance; they will be delighted to assist you.

Trustee News

At the present time, the trustees are taking a break from another major project. They have had a clean-up day in May and another one may be scheduled in the near future. We are trying to eliminate the large pile of leaves that was collected. Also we have been making small repairs and doing some exterior painting. We are also looking into making some permanent changes to the Memorial Garden area in the near future.



Card Shower

Please consider sending a card for Earlene Freeman's 90th birthday on July 21!

3200 N. Dirksen Pkwy. #347
Springfield, IL 62702.

July Birthdays

| | |
|-------------------|-----------|
| Cheryl Beckner | 7/6 |
| Kathy Jones | 7/6/1952 |
| Barb Lucas | 7/6/1954 |
| Dorothy Hendricks | 7/7/1936 |
| Doris Lamkey | 7/10 |
| Madalyn Sloman | 7/10/2006 |
| Shawn Binion | 7/12/1980 |
| Casey Tester | 7/12/1984 |
| Don Sutton | 7/13/1951 |
| Tracy Scales | 7/15/1970 |
| Ron Atkins | 7/16/1942 |
| Sharon Stroisch | 7/16 |
| Earlene Freeman | 7/21/1924 |
| Shelby Dial | 7/24/1992 |
| Mary Sims | 7/27/1998 |
| David Sutherland | 7/27/1988 |
| Pat Upton | 7/28/1946 |

Ladies' Tea

On August 16, 2014 we will be hosting a formal ladies' tea. This event will begin at 1:00 P.M. with a sit-down lunch/tea/desert time. A speaker will be there after the meal. She is a well-informed lady who give speeches about life in the earlier generations. This speech will address the ways that women wore their hair and how they had to fix it and/or wear a hat. So with that in mind, if you have a very old hat or a very new hat, please feel free to wear it. Tickets will soon go on sale.

Bible Study

The 6pm Wednesday Night BIBLE STUDY is beginning with LUKE. It is the 3rd gospel in the New Testament and Luke has researched Jesus life from birth until he goes to heaven. Luke was not a disciple but a medical Doctor that cared for and assisted Jesus and then John as he traveled. Come and learn with us. Bring any questions/ideas you may have.

Schedule for the rest of June and July is as follows:

- June 18th introduction
- June 25th off for VBS
- July 2-on vacation
- July 9-on vacation
- July 16- chapter 1 of Luke
- July 23- chapter 2
- July 30-chapter 3

July Anniversaries

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Jeff and Karen Koger | 7/2/1983 |
| Michael and Hope McKenzie | 7/25/2008 |



140TH
HOMECOMING
FIRST RIVERTON UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

SAVE THE DATE
September 7th 2014

CATERED LUNCH FOLLOWING



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

The United Methodist Women

WILL MEET: TUESDAY, JULY 8, AT 6:00 P.M.

PROGRAM: PICNIC

HOSTESSES:
ROSE HUGHES AND MARJ TODD

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

***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.*