

November 1, 2014

The Oaks



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SCRATCHINGS FROM THE DIXON PENCIL

Over the past couple months I have written in this space about our history as a congregation, since we are celebrating 140 years on ministry here. Today, as I write in late October for the November issue of the newsletter, I want to take a step farther back into our heritage. I want to reflect on something that happened about this time almost 500 years ago, called the Protestant Reformation. (We observed October 26 as Reformation Sunday, and sang a hymn by Martin Luther, *A Mighty Fortress Is our God*.)

October 31, 1517, Martin Luther is said to have posted a notice of 95 theses, or topics, he wanted to have debated in the church. He was a scholar; today we would probably call him a Professor of Bible. But he was also an ordained priest, with responsibilities we would associate with a church pastor. He was concerned that the church (Roman Catholic) of his day was teaching things that didn't agree with the Bible – like that people could get to heaven by doing good things and giving money. His own Bible study told him otherwise. So he wanted to debate the matter.

What Luther got was much more than an academic debate. He precipitated a firestorm of controversy. His dispute took on a life of its own. It resulted in he and others being expelled from the church and having to worship in what came to be called Protestant churches. People were put to death; wars were fought over the teachings and practices of Christianity. The long term result is that many branches of Christians, lumped under the title Protestant, came about, and still exist.

What was it that caused a young German priest to stir up all this? It was his life. He wanted to be a good Christian, but he was racked with guilt over his sins, real and imagined. He spent hours praying and confessing, only to think of other misdeeds in his past as he was leaving the prayer cell. He was near despair. But his Bible study brought about a change, especially in places that say “The just shall live by faith” (Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:38 etc). Living by faith instead of trying to earn salvation by doing things became the main teaching of his life. To live by “faith alone” was the watchword. It was central to the Protestant movement, the Reformation.

As United Methodists we are part of that Protestant tradition. Times have changed. Christians have learned to live together more peaceably. We worship together at Thanksgiving, all support the Food Pantry, and we even have Vacation Bible School together with our Catholic neighbors. Still, I claim the Reformation as part of our heritage. It is still important that we understand that we live at peace with God through faith alone, not by our doings, however noble they may be. Later I hope to write about the transfer of this heritage to us through our Methodist founder, John Wesley. But that will have to be another column another time. In the meantime please remember: live by faith!

Pastor Jonathan Dixon

Happy Thanksgiving



RFUMC Calendar – November 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 Daylight time ends; 8:30 AM Prayer Time; 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Adult Bible Class; 3:00 PM Congregational Meeting; 5:00 PM Church Conference	3	4 7:00 PM Trustees	5 9:00 AM Quilting; 9 – 12 CLM at Church; 6:00 PM Bible Study; 7:00 PM Choir Practice	6	7	8
9 United Methodist Men Sunday; 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Adult Bible Class 1:00 PM Veterans Day Observance at Park; 6:30 PM Fi- nance and Admin- istration Meeting	10	11 7:00 PM United Meth- odist Women	12 9:00 AM Quilting; 9 – 12 CLM at Church; 6:00 PM Bible Study; 7:00 PM Choir Practice	13	14 5:30 – 8:00 PM Commu- nity Thanks- giving Dinner at Elementary School	15
16 Organ Donor Sab- bath 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Adult Bible Class	17	18 6:00 PM United Meth- odist Men	19 9:00 AM Quilting; 9 – 12 CLM at Church; 6:00 PM Bible Study; 7:00 PM Choir Practice	20	21	22
23 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Adult Bible Class; 6:00 PM Community Thanksgiving Service here at our church	24	25	26 9:00 AM Quilting; 7:00 PM Choir Prac- tice	27 Thanksgiv- ing Day	28	29 9:00 AM Hanging of the Greens; 4:00 PM Way of Lights Out- ing
30 Advent Begins 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Adult Bible Class						

Looking Ahead...

December 2, UMW Christmas Party
 December 6, Parsonage Open House
 December 14, Christmas Musical Program 4 PM
 December 24, Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

**GIVE
 THANKS**
 FAMILY • FRIENDS • GRATITUDE

Did You Know??

Did you know that if you spend \$200.00 a week on groceries, using the SCRIP card program, earning a 4% rebate.....that adds up to \$35.00 a month and \$416.00 a year to your church's SCRIP Program?....AND that is just on groceries!

Did you know that if you spend \$100.00 a week for dining out and/or entertainment, you could earn \$10.00 a week and \$120.00 a year to your church's SCRIP Program? Clothing would be at least that much earnings.

Did you know that there is an order Sunday the first and third Sundays of every month; and you get that order the very next Sunday (second and fourth Sundays)?

Did you know that beginning the week of November 23, 2014 we will order EVERY Sunday and you will receive those cards the very next Sunday? Also during this season the SCRIP Program head office will offer bigger savings.

Did you know that as of the end of October, the SCRIP Program has paid another \$1,000.00 on the principal loan balance! THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!!!!

Miracles

...do not come with bright lights and fancy stages. Those belong in a magic show. If you want a miracle, you can see it everywhere - in dew drops, in waves, and of course in yourself. What a terrific way to introduce the Prayer topic of the month in the Newsletter. I love living in today with all the tools we have to pray. Suggested lists of ways to pray are abundant.

One is the church directory. Pick a page and pray for these families (by this I mean the person(s) by name and their extended family. Try and be specific about that person and the needs/goals of these people (housing, physical, emotions, spiritual welfare, visions etc.) If you are uncertain of these for these people, move into their lives more and learn as we are all church family.

Two is media –whether it is TV news, newspaper, Facebook, e-mail, phone contacts or the church newsletter, pray for those mentioned. What a privilege it is to surround that person in prayer who has made a poor or good choice in life. What a privilege it is to envelope the people are involved with, with the love of praying for them.

Three- people that we see during our day-whisper a prayer for their day and the actions they will encounter during the day. What an exciting day it would be to go through our waking hours talking to God (and we know He listens and loves all those people just as much as He loves us—and that is 100% by the way). Don't forget the people in the cars next to you on the road and those seen on TV shows.

November Anniversaries

Tim and Bobbie Sexton	11/9/1979
Don and Marsha Sutton	11/23/1973
Jim and Kim Rusciolelli	11/23/1983
Tom and Melissa Pantier	11/23/1991

Trustee News

There is preliminary layout work on the parsonage utility room, electrical box and other renovations in the downstairs. We hope to begin this project after the first of the year, but we don't want to jump into it without a definite layout.

New trees will soon be planted in the church yard. If you would like to help water them next year, please contact George Skaggs to let him know you are willing to share this responsibility.

Quilting Update

At the present time the quilters are working on a very antique quilt top. It was probably constructed in the early 1900's. It is different, unique and will be amazing when we complete it.

Our next quilt may be put up for sale. It is constructed of blocks that were donated to us. These blocks were repaired, resized and constructed into a full size quilt.

We welcome anyone who would like to learn to quilt, does quilt or just wants to come join our laughter and conversation.

Annual Community-Wide Thanksgiving Dinner

Date: Friday November 14th

Time: 5:30-8pm

Location: Riverton Elementary School Cafeteria

The entry fee is any food item to be donated to the Riverton Food Pantry.

Calling for volunteers and anyone can eat.

The Clearlake Township Family Wishes Program can use the following NEW items:

- Scarves
- Snow boots for all ages
- Coats for all ages
- Board Games
- Toys for all ages, infant to teenager
- Pajamas for all ages
- Candy for stocking stuffers
- Bigger toys for all ages
- Blankets-character
- Toiletry Items

November Birthdays

Grace Carriker	11/2/1930
Mike Armintrout	11/4
Nancy Daniels	11/5/1941
Bobbie Sexton	11/8/1958
Cheryl Allison	11/9
Bill Mann, Jr.	11/10
Ellen Dixon	11/12/1947
Tom Pantier	11/16/1957
Scott Binion	11/18/1976
Elijah Byers	11/20/2009

Please do not wrap these items. These can be taken to the dinner or taken to the Township office on Old 36. **Note our church does the wreath with the tags to buy for several families. The above items are in addition to our wreath.

One of the Last Scheduled events to celebrate our 140 years of Service to Riverton, is the

Trip to Our Lady of the Snows – its 45th year

This is a light show, buffet, Christmas tree display etc., sleigh rides if you choose, camel and donkey rides and petting zoo for the kids, laser light show and life-size nativity scene at Collinsville, near St. Louis.

This huge white light drive through display is profoundly beautiful and moving while it sets a lovely Christmas/Advent mood for celebrating the wonderful Christ Child gift.

This is scheduled **for Saturday November 29th** in the afternoon so we can arrive for the buffet and then have it be dark for the drive through etc. The buffet in the visitor's center is \$14.99 for people over 12 and \$6.99 for kids 5-12.

At this point it will be a carpooling event. We would like a large crowd to go and enjoy our church family, your family and be celebrating with those we love. More information can be found at <http://wayoflights.org/>.

Thanks

1. For a wonderful Chili/Soup Supper. We get lots of support and it appears to be growing.
2. For Carly as we, the choir, start preparing for Christmas. The Concert is scheduled for 12/14 in the late afternoon. If you would like to sing with the choir, please join us at 7PM on Wednesday. We have just begun with the Christmas music.
3. For our new Parish Nurse Judy. It is a blessing to have her with us and be so nurturing.
4. The beautiful fall when we enjoy the colors, cooler weather and seasons.
5. Our finance people who serve us as treasurer, financial secretary, those in organizations such as trustees, UMW, UMM and those who count the offering each week.



The **United Methodist Women** will

meet Tuesday, November 11 at 7:00 PM

Program: Bonnie Klaves

Hostesses: Doris Lamkey, Marsha Sutton and Barbara Rhodes

We wish to thank everyone who helped with the chili supper.

We welcome all 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

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.*

TURKEY SWEATERS
CRANBERRIES GRAVY
MASHED POTATOES
CRACKLING FIREYAMS
LAUGHTER FOOTBALL
LOVE TOGETHERNESS
PUMPKIN PIE CORN
FALLING LEAVES
HAY RIDES NOVEMBER