

January 1, 2015

The Oaks



T *SCRATCHINGS FROM THE DIXON PENCIL*

Last year at this time, in this space, I called your attention to the fact that 2014 was the 140th year of our church's existence. I devoted the whole column to the subject of 140. I called attention to the fact that it represented two lifetimes, according to the wording of Psalm 90, which says the span of our lives is 70 years, 80 if we are strong.

I also quoted to you from Psalm 140, just because it is the 140th. I compared the psalmist's words, which were a prayer for deliverance from opponents, to our own situation – when we face the obstacles of indifference, criticism and such from the secular forces of our day. But I also noted the end of the psalm, where he has regained confidence in God's protection, ending with the words “the upright shall live in your presence.”

I also called attention to the fact that 140 was the maximum number of characters in a Twitter feed. I even shared a 140 character version of the Lord's Prayer, which I can't resist using again.

dad@hvn.urspshl.wewantwotuwant&urth2blikehvn.givusfood&4givrsinslykwe4givuvas.don'ttestus!saveus!bcoswেকnourboss,urtough&urcool4eva?ok?

You picked up the theme and we used it all through 2014. We had a homecoming service with a goal of 140 in attendance. It was a great day. We got the 140 people, at least if you include the meal. (Some folks are better at coming to eat that to service.) We had a resource person from the conference, the Rev. Michael Crawford, come and speak to us about our church and its prospects for the future. We thought and planned and prayed about that. We even had a big poster board in the church entrance so we could list 140 good deeds we did during the course of the year. I don't think we actually wrote 140 different good deeds, but we wrote a bunch of them. And it kept us reminded to be alert for ways of showing compassion to others all year. It was a good year!

That was then, 2014, our 140th year. This is now, 2015, our 141st year. 141st doesn't lend itself to as many clever things as 140. It's not even a round number. But there is a 141st psalm. Here are some thoughts from that psalm. “I call upon you, O Lord, come quickly to me; give ear to my voice when I call to you.” That's a prayer we can all identify with. Here is another. “Set a guard over my mouth, O Lord; keep watch over my lips.” I can use that prayer all year, so the words of my mouth are constructive and helpful, not otherwise.

141 may not be a round number, but 2015 is. Maybe we should think of a slogan using it in a rhyme. One I have already thought of and rejected is “Bring us your green in 2015.” We can't use that one. It would only reinforce the impression some folks already have, that the church is only interested in their money. But I haven't come up with anything better either. Maybe you can. Think about it. Bring me your ideas on Sunday. Maybe we can have a creative catchphrase for 2015. In the meantime, happy New Year! May God bless you richly during 2015.

Pastor Jonathan Dixon

RFUMC Calendar – January 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4 Epiphany Sunday 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Adult Bible Class	5	6 7:00 PM Trustees	7 9:00 AM Quilting; 6:00 PM Bible Study	8	9	10
11 Covenant Sunday 9:30 AM Worship, with UMW Installa- tion, and Covenant Renewal; 10:30 AM Adult Bible Class; 6:30 PM Finance & Administration Meeting	12 Connie Wieck's Birthday	13 7:00 PM United Methodist Women	14 9:00 AM Quilting; 6:00 PM Bible Study; 7:00 PM Choir	15	16	17 4 – 7 PM Beef Noodle Dinner
18 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Adult Bi- ble Class	19 ML King, Jr. Holiday	20 6:30 PM United Methodist Men	21 9:00 AM Quilting; 6:00 PM Bible Study; 7:00 PM Choir	22	23	24
25 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Adult Bible Class	26	27	28 9:00 AM Quilting; 6:00 PM Bible Study; 7:00 PM Choir	29	30	31

Looking Ahead...

February 7, Family Valentine Dinner
 February 17, Shrove Tuesday pancake Supper
 February 18, Ash Wednesday Service
 March 7, Chili Supper
 March 17, UMM Annual Meeting
 March 29, Palm Sunday
 April 3, Good Friday
 April 5, Easter Sunday

January Anniversary

John and Rose Cessna January 2

January Birthdays

Ron Armintrout	1/2/1951
Cheryl Atkins	1/2/1944
Cheryl Armintrout	1/3/1951
Robin Compton	1/14
Karen Koger	1/18/1961
Connie Thomas	1/20/1966
Nik Caldwell	1/24/1947
Butch Baker	1/29/1953
Robert Lucas	1/29/1979
Brian Pfeiffer	1/29/1990

Thanks to Jeri

This thanks is for Jeri Sucech for her faithful leadership to the Administrative Council and our delegate to Annual Conference. Jeri has stepped down from these responsibilities at the end of December. Appreciation for her gentle, competent leadership to our Congregation is given from our full hearts of gratitude.

Thanks, Jeri, for caring for us so well.

Delivery of Communion

Starting in January 2015 there will be delivery of the Communion elements to those who desire it. If you were unable to get to the worship service on Communion Sunday (usually the first Sunday of the month), you may receive this service.

To get the delivery and a Mini-litany you need to call the Church office at 629-9721 and reserve a slot for the group to come to your home. Two people from this group will come as a team. This should be no longer than 20 minutes and any visitors are welcome.

The elements will be from the morning's consecrated bread and juice.

Wednesday Evening (6pm) Bible Study

Wednesday evening Bible study will resume January 7th and we are in the 10th chapter of Luke. Please come and join us in the Parlor room.

How can we get ready for the Confirmation Class that will be starting soon?

1. Pray for the people in the class.
2. Be a mentor –support a person in the class by going with this person in class and on the outings as well pray for them.
3. Drive to the outings that will happen during this time.
4. Provide snacks
5. Help with parties and celebrations.
6. Pray for leaders
7. Share with the group of your Church/life experiences.
8. Be part in any way so these teens can get to know you personally.

This can be a support for one or all the weeks. Your input is valuable as you are a child of God too.

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Address Correction Requested

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E-MAIL: rvtnumc@sbcglobal.net
WEBSITE: www.rivertonfirstumc.org

Riverton First United Methodist Church

***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.*

United Methodist Women will meet Tuesday, January 13 at 7 PM

Program: Prayer and Self-Denial, Nadine Mackenzie

Hostess: Ellen Dixon

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