

August 1, 2015

The Oaks



Riverton First United Methodist Church – 217-629-9721

Pastor's Corner

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

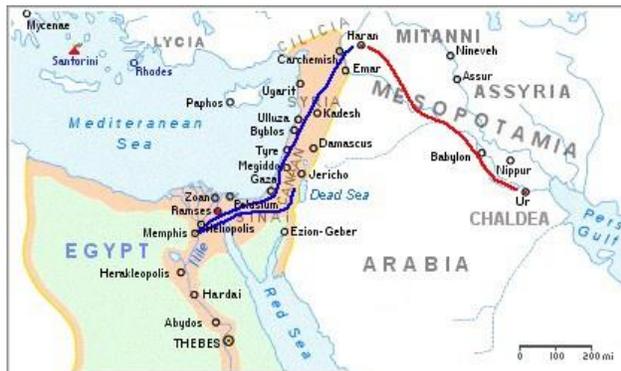
It is hard to believe that I am about to finish my first month here at Riverton. Last Sunday, Ron Armintrout asked me if I had settled in yet. Ron started me to thinking, how long does it take to really get settled in? When was the last time you moved? Moving takes a lot of time and energy.

I have learned to get around Riverton and Springfield. The kitchen, living room, master bedroom, and first spare bedroom are all set up. I still have the third bedroom to set up and the garage is still filled with boxes that need to be gone through to determine if the stuff goes in the home office, the church office or stays in the garage. I still have to look through cabinets to find what I am looking for. How long does it take to get to where your new home feels like home?

Can you imagine if you had to move on a regular basis? Let me introduce you to Abram (Abraham) and his family.

Genesis 11:27-12:2

²⁷ Now these are the descendants of Terah. Terah was the father of Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran was the father of Lot. ²⁸ Haran died before his father Terah in the land of his birth, in Ur of the Chaldeans. ²⁹ Abram and Nahor took wives; the name of Abram's wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor's wife was Milcah. She was the daughter of Haran the father of Milcah and Iscah. ³⁰ Now Sarai was barren; she had no child. ³¹ Terah took his son Abram and his grandson Lot son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, his son Abram's wife, and they went out together from Ur of the Chaldeans to go into the land of Canaan; but when they came to Haran, they settled there. ³² The days of Terah were two hundred five years; and Terah died in Haran. ^{12:1} Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing (NRSV).



The map here shows the route that Abram and his family took moving around the Ancient Middle East.

Abram and his family were shepherds and nomads. They traveled around grazing their sheep much the way that some Bedouins still do in the Middle East today. Can you imagine never really settling down; constantly picking up everything that you have and moving to where the grass is greener?

That was the life of many of Jesus' ancestors.

That was the life of the people that God chose to bring redemption to the world.

Many Christians today know very little about the Hebrew Scriptures. To understand God's grace and work of redemption we need to know and understand how the whole Bible fits together. That is why I have decided to do a little refresher course on the Hebrew Scriptures over the next couple of months. Little did Ron know when he asked me that question on Sunday that God would use his question to lead me to what I would be preaching on in August and maybe in September. I have not had a chance to finish planning the sermon series, but come and join us as we travel through the Hebrew Scriptures.

In Christ's service,

Pastor John

Trustee News

The trustees met in July so our new Pastor could become acquainted with the group. Basically there was nothing new discussed. The trustees are thinking of having a work day soon to move the debris piles that have accumulated and to work on some of the dead limbs hanging around. The work at the parsonage slowed down to give Pastor John time to get his home organized. Trustees will soon return to the parsonage to continue repairs to the basement, finish the utility room and remodeling of the lower bath area.

Scrip News

School is about to start, so consider using your gift cards for the many supplies needed for your student(s). The gift cards are also a wonderful tool to use for those away in college. If you are new to the area and not aware of this program.....well, let us explain it:

On the first and third Sundays of the month we insert order sheets in the bulletins for your use. Look over the list of businesses, select all the places you might need (can use), mark the sheet, tally the figures, give you sheet and money to Doris Lamkey. On the second and fourth Sundays of the month, you find Doris, she will give you the cards that you have ordered the previous week and then you can go shopping/eating!!!!

This program allows you to purchase the gift cards at the face value, you pay the face value for the card, the business you selected will immediately donate a percentage of that card back to the church. So if you ordered a \$10.00 card from Fannie Mae Candy, you pay \$10.00, Fannie Mae gives you a card for \$10.00 and Fannie Mae gives the church 25% or \$2.50. The church uses that \$2.50 to help pay down the principal of the church's loan. Since this program began, over \$20,000 has been paid on the principal. Please, use this gift card program in support of your church.

August Birthdays

Harriet Beckey	8/3
Jo Anna Eyer	8/3/1938
Sarah Caldwell	8/5/1997
Michael McKenzie	8/5/1960
Jerry Julian	8/14/1945
Hope McKenzie	8/17/1959
Barbara Rhodes	8/18/1929
Damon Hermes	8/21
Hilda Fetter	8/22
Laila Mann	8/24
Pat Baker	8/25/1954
Bob Hughes	8/25/1936
Bonnie Klaves	8/26/1934
Sharon Caldwell	8/29/1948
Bob Falzone, Sr.	8/31

August Anniversaries

Doranne and Jerry Julian	8/14/1967
Melvin and Cheryl Allison	8/14/1965
Barry and Tracy Tester	8/19/1978
Tom and Sharon Stroisch	8/28/1999

RFUMC Calendar – August 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 Adult Sunday School; 7:00 PM Trustees	3	4	5 9:00 AM Quilters	6	7	8 4-7:00 PM Open House at Ellen Dixon's
9 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 Adult Sunday School; 6:00 PM Fi- nance and Administra- tion	10	11 7:00 PM United Methodist Women	12 9:00 AM Quilters	13	14	15
August 10-12, Pastor John out of town at College of Christian Life						
16 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 Fellowship to celebrate Allison's 50 th anniversary; 10:35 Adult Sunday School	17	18 6:00 PM United Methodist Men	19 9:00 AM Quilters	20	21	22
23 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 Adult Sunday School	24	25	26 9:00 AM Quilters; 7:00 PM Choir	27	28	29
30 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 Adult Sunday School	31					



Next newsletter deadline: August 16



You are invited to an **OPEN HOUSE** at Ellen Dixon's
New Home Dedication on Saturday August 8th.
It will be from 4-7 with the dedication time at 4 PM
and Food and Fellowship following.
1427 N Franklin Ave in Springfield, phone 217-691-7676



Staff-Parish Relations News

Now that Pastor John has had a month to settle in, Staff-Parish will be organizing some small get-togethers for members of the congregation to talk with him about the past, present, and future of our church. Everyone is invited to participate! We will keep these sessions small, with ten people or fewer, and short, with a plan for the formal conversation to last no longer than 90 minutes. Many of these sessions will be held in members' homes. Stay tuned for more information later this month at worship and in next month's newsletter. If you'd like more information right away, please see Staff-Parish Chairperson Carly Shank.

Quilting, Stitches and Chatter

The quilters are about half done with the quilt in the frames presently. Another quilt is waiting for its turn. This is a fun group, who put out as many words as stitches put in. They are very willing to help teach you to quilt, if you decide to join the quilters, or feel free to just come down for a chat.

Choir Resumes

Our choir will start fall rehearsals on Wednesday, August 26 at 7 PM. No auditions required! We welcome anyone with a desire to sing God's praises into our choir; we will teach you what you need to know. We rehearse on Wednesdays at 7 PM for 60-75 minutes and briefly before each Sunday morning service at which we will sing. If you have questions about choir, please see Carly Shank.

United Methodist Women

WILL MEET: August 11 at 7:00 PM
Program: Mystery
Hostesses: Mystery

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

*We still have pecans available -
\$9.00 for pieces and \$10.00 for halves.
See Rose Hughes, 629-9565
or Barb Rhodes, 629-9247*

Riverton VBS 2015, *Bible Blast From The Past*, Was A Great Success!

Once again this year Riverton St James Catholic Church and the Riverton First United Methodist Church joined together to put on Vacation Bible School. There was food, a service project, opening service, lessons, crafts, games, music, and a closing service. As you can probably tell from the pictures, a great time was had by all.



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Address Correction Requested

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WEBSITE: www.rivertonfirstumc.org

Free – If You Can Use It

What do you do? Your loyal printer bit the dust. You are left high and dry. You must go in search for a replacement. Then you realize just how much printers have changed since you last looked at them in stores! Of course, you must buy one of these foreign looking printers, which will deem it necessary to purchase the new ink cartridges for the new printer. When you get home, you become aware that the new cartridges for the old printer will not work with the new printer, the package has been opened. SO.....if anyone receiving this newsletter has a HP printer that uses cartridges 564...we have two in black we would love to give you. Please call 638-1010 and leave Judy a message.

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Please consider giving us your email address so that we may email you the newsletter instead! Please email newsletter editor Carly Shank at carlyshank@yahoo.com with your request to start receiving it by email.