

STREAMS

Riverton United Methodist Church

From the Pastor's Desk

March 2015

Good day saints. I am thanking God for each of you today. Thankful we are in this together and thankful for the powerful witness you are becoming in our community. I believe scripture clearly shows us that if we remain faithful in our service to the kingdom of God, then we shall find favor with the King and our reward will be an increase in opportunities to serve and bear witness. As situations in our community cause doubt and fear and division, my prayer is that Riverton will rise out of this darkness and shine a light so bright that all may see clearly and find wisdom in the pages of Holy scripture as evidenced in our lives.

The changes that are beginning on our campus are a sign that we are serious about making disciples and offering the very best of Christ's love and forgiveness to those whom God has brought us. Nothing says "we care" like a good dose of *Extreme Hospitality*. As the year goes forward we will be adding some features to our Children's ministry and Welcome Center, enhancing our safety and security features while bringing the children's area to life. Prayerfully we hope to make everyone feel welcomed and expected, much like the anticipated arrival of a special guest to God's house of worship.

I invite you to share your gifts and experience with us so we can accomplish this together. Please come and see me with your thoughts, concerns and ideas. If you want to know more or do more or find out where you can get plugged in, my door is always open.

Te and I thank you for your prayers and again realize the blessing we have been given when we were sent to Riverton.

In Christ's Service with you,
Pastor Marc

See ya Sunday

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- | | |
|--|---------|
| • Sunday School for all ages (see page 12 for details) | 8:45am |
| • Prayer & Quiet Reflection, in Prayer Parlor | 9:15am |
| • Worship Service | 10:00am |
| • Children's Worship (begins in Sanctuary) | 10:00am |

Visit our website! www.rivertonumc.org

And our [facebook page](#)

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

8:30am– 2:30pm
(Monday-Friday)

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Riverton Staff

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Chip Crawford:	Director of Worship & Welcoming Ministries chip.crawford@rivertonumc.org
Cindy Martin:	Director, Riverfront Christian School cindy.martin@riverfrontchristian.com, 540-635-8202
Beth Moon:	Administrative Assistant riverton@rivertonumc.org
Margie Moore:	Director, Little Sheep Preschool Littlesheeppreschool.com
Debbie Stafford:	RCS — Administrative Assistant resoffice@riverfrontchristian.com

Church Council 2014

• <i>Pastor</i>	Marc Roberson
• <i>Chair</i>	Randy Moon
• <i>Secretary</i>	Betty Smith
• <i>Lay Leader</i>	Beth Smith
• <i>SPRC Chair</i>	Norman Shiflett
• <i>Trustee Chair</i>	Bill Coleman
• <i>Finance & Stewardship Chair</i>	Joan Burke
• <i>Annual Conference Delegate</i>	David Blanton
• <i>Director Riverfront CS</i>	Cindy Martin
• <i>COME (Worship & Welcoming)</i>	Chip Crawford/ Greg Hubbell
• <i>GROW (Training & Transformation)</i>	Trish Anderson/ Theresa Roberson
• <i>GO (Sharing & Serving)</i>	Bob Boulter/ John McKenzie
• <i>United Methodist Men President</i>	Ralph Smith
• <i>Administrative Assistant</i>	Beth Moon

Pastor's Page	1
Staff & Church Council Listing	2
COME Ministries	3
GROW Ministries	4-5
High School Sunday School	6
Youth	7
Riverfront Christian	8
Riverton & Riverfront Fun	9
Little Sheep Preschool	10
Events	11
Riverton Calendar	12
Birthdays & Anniversaries	13

Worship &

The Welcome Lesson

In the fall of 2012, my wife, Deb, attended her first Sunday morning worship service at Riverton UMC. Two weeks prior to that Sunday, I had sent in a resume' for the vacant advertised position of Director of Worship and Welcoming but had not received any response. Deb and I decided that she should attend a service at Riverton to "scout" out the church where God may possibly have plans for us to serve Him. Back home that afternoon, Deb shared about her first Sunday morning experience at this unknown church in Front Royal.

She arrived for the 10am service at Riverton a little early (did I really say that?) and made her way through an empty gathering area into the sanctuary. As she walked up the piano side aisle to find a seat, she was approached by a woman. Deb described this woman as the nicest lady who had a warm, calming spirit with warm eyes and hands, a warm smile and smiling eyelashes (lashes that made Deb smile!). Deb said the lady was extremely friendly and not only did she spend time with her before the service, she also talked with her during greeting time in the service and again after the service was over!

There are a couple of interesting points about Deb's encounter with this individual. First, the person was not a part of any official "Greeters Ministry" at Riverton, she was acting as an individual who desired to show and be the welcoming love of Jesus to a stranger in the house. Secondly, she was the only person who reached out to Deb that morning...and thank God she did! Two and a half years later, Deb and I are still talking about what a difference one single person made at her first Riverton service.

Every time we gather for worship on Sunday morning, **all** of us have the opportunity and privilege to be the welcoming love of Jesus to our guests, especially to those who have chosen to worship with us for the very first time. I encourage you to make a conscious effort to seek out those new faces with love and warmth knowing we will have many chances to make a God-filled first impression during the Easter Season.

If you'd like to help make a difference and be an official part of the Greeting Ministry at Riverton serving in the Gathering area before and after services, please contact me... we'd love to have you!....p.s. smiling eyelashes are optional!

Chip Crawford
COME Ministries Lead

Grow Ministries

Our Spiritual Story Begins in the Old Testament

For the past few months in Sunday school we have been studying the Old Testament (OT). The study is *An Overview of the Bible* but has gone into a bit more depth than is typical with an overview. It is difficult to not want to get into the rich detail of the culture and lives of the OT characters. We are just getting ready to enter into the world the Israelites found when they escaped Egypt loaded down with gifts from their Egyptian neighbors but soon to be pursued by Egyptian soldiers.

I've read the OT before but have enjoyed this study for several reasons. As a lover of history, the historical aspect of the OT has always appealed to me, but this time through I'm looking at it from the perspective of the Christian's (my) spiritual story; more on that later. Secondly, the current sermon series in Romans stands out in relief against the backdrop of a chosen people, having just escaped Egypt, surrounded by pagan cultures, fighting for survival and graciously being given the gift of the law from God. In the current Sunday Romans sermon series we now see this law being debated by the Jews and Gentiles in Rome. Third, the culture today, both secular and Christian, questions the God of the OT and would like to separate the God of the first 39 books from the God of the last 27. I disagree with that claim but want to do more than just deny it. I want to explain why I disagree.

We often tend to read the OT in small pieces or stories told here and there. Perhaps this starts in Sunday school when young but in any case we don't often begin in Genesis and work our way to the end. We dwell on individual's stories or perhaps the practicality of the Proverbs or Poetry of the Psalms. While there is nothing wrong with this, it tends to keep us down in what authors Gordon Fee and Douglas Stuart call the first level of narrative. We know the stories of Joseph, Moses, or David very well but not how they fit into the second and third levels of narrative which are particularly important in the OT. The second level of narrative focuses on the first covenant and new covenant story of redemption. We find this played out beginning with Abraham through to Jesus death and resurrection. The third level of narrative is God's universal plan starting with creation. God made man in His image, and the enemy came in and persuaded man to bear the enemy's image. The rest of the story is God's plan to win His people back, redeem them, and set up a new heaven and new earth. As the authors put it, it's really God's story with us written into it.¹ We can see how God uses the people he loves, at the first level of the story, to bring about His plan. We can relate to their triumphs and failures, but always keep in mind the story is about God and His plan to redeem His people.

As we have been listening to Pastor Marc teach Romans on Sundays, reading about the Mosaic Law has taken on a different meaning than in prior readings. The Israelites would have come out of Egypt after having been in slavery to one of the greatest nations in the world at that time, approximately 1440 BC.² They were used to the lifestyle of the Egyptians, the customs and gods of the Egyptians, they did not have their own warriors, and were about to come into contact with cultures who were pagan and more than practiced an evil that God was going to punish. They needed to stay separate from those around them.

God gave them a set of laws that while they were comprehensive in some aspects with a list of Do's and Don'ts, they also contained examples of how to handle situations that might arise. They were meant to be guidelines rather than list every possible eventuality. The spirit of the law was meant to be kept. I did not notice until recently that the greatest two commandments are recorded in Deuteronomy 30:6,

⁶“Moreover the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, so that you may live.” And Leviticus 19:18, ¹⁸You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the LORD.” The spirit of the law was necessary. Even if you could keep all of the law, it would be human success through works and not the Spirit. See Romans 8:1-11.

Paul writing to the church in Rome tells the Jews that they do not have a corner on righteousness through the Law. Even when the Law was in effect they chose not to follow it in spirit and turned to other gods. Likewise the Gentiles need to walk in the Spirit. Paul reminds them in Abraham, who was a Gentile when the promise of redemption was made to him, Romans 4:11.

Grow Ministries

Finally, the God of the OT is the same God we see in the New Testament sending His Son to die for our sins, fulfilling his promise to Abraham, and as the story goes, redeeming His people. If you read through the OT, you will see over and over how patiently God deals with His people. Over and over He reminded them of His promise and their commitment to follow Him, sending prophet after prophet to remind them to turn back to Him, always holding out mercy when they repented. Rather than being a vengeful God, we see a god who kept His promise of redemption, worked with the faults of His people, punished them not when they failed in their human ability to keep the Law but when they turned their back on Him to serve other gods.

It is well worth taking the time to read the Old Testament starting in Genesis and working your way through book by book. Keep in mind that you are reading your spiritual story of God's plan of redemption. Every individual story told supports God's plan. Saint Augustine said "The New Testament lies hidden in the Old, and the Old Testament is unveiled in the New". I have found that listening to the sermon series on Romans while studying the OT has really been helpful. I recommend reading the OT with the aid of a good commentary or Bible handbook. Good tools bring to life passages and cultures that are outdated and foreign to 21st century ears. Below are some of my recommendations. *An Overview of the Bible* Sunday school class meets every Sunday, at 8:45 in room 125. All are welcome.

Suggestions for Study

How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth, Gordon Fee & Douglas Stuart

This book gives an overview of the various genres of the Bible such as Hebrew narrative (40% of the Old Testament) prophecy, (individual oracles that usually point back to historical events), parables, and poetry. The authors also look at the various translations available and how they differ.

How to Read the Bible Book by Book: A Guided Tour, Gordon Fee and Douglas Stuart

The authors go into each book of the Bible giving cultural context, key themes, and writing style. For example, did you know Paul wrote Romans in a popular form of ancient rhetoric known as diatribe? This was a form of argumentation where the teacher tried to persuade the students the truth of a particular philosophy in the form of questions and answers often with an imagined debate partner. Look for Paul to say "By No Means!" in the text. This is part of that dialogue. No wonder Romans is hard to understand!

Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries

Purchased a book at a time, various authors write each commentary and walk you through a verse by verse study with comments. Note that you do not have to agree with every piece of commentary. The authors themselves are often scholars who contribute to the footnotes you see in your Bibles.

References

Fee, G., & Stuart, D., (2014), How to read the bible for all its worth, 5, 94-95

Fee, G., & Stuart, D., (2014), How to read the bible for all its worth, 8, 181

Trish Anderson, Te Roberson

GROW Ministries Lead

Bible Basics with the High School Sunday School !

Inviting high school students—join us as we continue the series on Sunday mornings at 8:45 called ***Bible Basics***.

This class will cover topics such as:

How Did We Get the Bible?

How We Can Know the Bible is True?

The Anatomy of the Bible

Old Testament Organization Part 1

Old Testament Organization Part 2

New Testament Organization Part 1

New Testament Organization Part 2

How to Study the Bible

8 lessons that will help you get to know the Bible and have your questions answered.

Added Bonus—Doughnuts!

See Tripp or Jan Bradd, class leaders, for more information.

Surge 120

Riverton Youth

March, 2015

*What we've been up to...
And what's coming up...*

Coming Up...

March 1

Youth Leader Meeting 11:45

March 12

Community Table 4-6:30 at First Presbyterian
Come help serve!

February 12

Community Table 4-6:30 at First Presbyterian
Come help serve.

Youth Group

Wednesdays from 6:15-8:15 PM

Youth Sunday School

Grades 6-12 from 8:45-9:45 AM.

The Unite Lock-in was a blast! We had 57 youth from several different churches attend. We had great games, good food, and inspiring messages. Ask someone who went about Iron Man Stan and making snowmen out of mashed potatoes.

We are in need of a new Communication Coordinator. We are looking for someone creative who can make our correspondence "Youth Friendly".

The responsibilities include:

Updating forms

Managing the email distribution list

Creating the monthly newsletter articles

Youth info for Announcement Page

Keeping website updated

Acquire the Fire – We are bummed the Richmond event was cancelled but we are excited we have rearranged to go to the Baltimore event May 1-2.

Camp Unite will be here before you know it. Please save the dates June 21-26. You can go to camp for just \$85 until March 1.

Youth Alpha Study has begun - join us & check out the link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MW2CjzV3AJg>

Youth Director: Ella Mae Harper-Mueller: emhm72@hotmail.com

Purpose Statement: To be a caring & fun-filled community of youth who know Jesus Christ, intent on sharing Him in our places of influence.

Riverton's Children

Riverfront Christian School

February 23 - March 10, Early Registration for Riverfront and Little Sheep Preschool Families.

March 2, 2015-2016 Open Registration - A tuition discount is available to Riverton UMC church members. For more information contact Cindy Martin at cindy.martin@riverfrontchristian.com

Beginning March 9, the 4th and 5th Grade students of Riverfront are welcome to participate in the after school Robotics Club. The club will be held every Monday after school at 3:30 pm.

March 13 - 14, Riverfront High School Retreat.

March 20, Riverfront Christian School will be hosting a Praise-A-Thon and silent auction. The silent auction will begin at 6:00 pm and the time of Praise will begin at 7:00 pm. This event is open to the public and a free will donation will be accepted.

March 30, Farmer Minor will be visiting to read a story to our younger students.

April 3 -10, Riverfront Christian School and Little Sheep Preschool will be closed for Easter Vacation

April 20 - 24, Standardized Testing for students K5 - 12.

Riverton's Children

Riverton Church & Riverfront Christian School

Ash Wednesday in February! Students participated in the noon Service of Ashes with Riverton UMC. After the service, Riverton Church provided a special lunch from Chick-Fil-A for the students, teachers, parents, and guests to enjoy.



Riverton's Children

Little Sheep Preschool News

March will be the kick-off of our reading program at Little Sheep Preschool. It will begin on March 2nd with a celebration week of Dr. Seuss' birthday and end April 30th. Parents are encouraged to read 5 books per week with their children and LSP will be matching that. These books can also be used toward the library's "1000 Books before Kindergarten" program that we are participating in. As an added benefit, Farmer Minor & Daisy Pig plus the Pugs will be visiting the school on March 30th at 9:30am to bring some additional excitement.

LSP will also begin bike safety lessons on March 16th. We will have our 8th Annual Trike-A-Thon for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital on March 26th and 27th. All funds raised will go to help the children of St. Jude's and in finding cures. If you would like to donate, contact the school office or a LSP student. Someone's child will receive your blessing and be thankful. Please keep these children in your prayers. Thank you and may God continue to bless you. Feel free to visit their website at <http://www.stjude.org>.



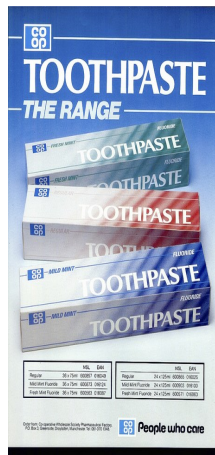
Food Pantry

Riverton Church offers a food pantry for citizens of the Warren County area. It helps people who need food for themselves and their families. The pantry is open two nights a month – the second and the fourth Thursday from 5:00 – 7:00 pm.

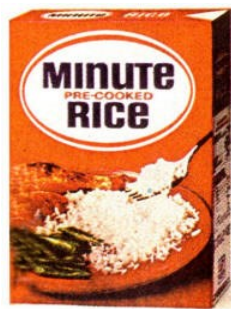
The pantry is currently in need of the following items, which can be dropped off at the church in the gathering room by the elevators.



Toothbrushes:
Child



Toothpaste



Instant Rice



Jelly



Canned Pork and Beans



Toothbrushes: Adult



Juice



Any Canned Meats

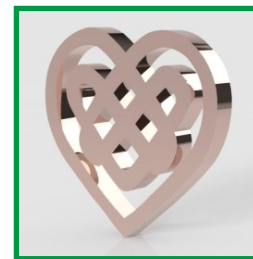
March 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:45 AM Sunday School 9:15 AM Prayer 10 AM Children's Worship In Sanctuary 10 AM Worship <i>2nd Sunday of Lent</i>	2 RCS Dr. Seuss Day 3:30 PM Girls Scouts 7 PM Trustees Meeting	3 9 AM UM Men's Breakfast 10 AM WARM Ministry 10:30 AM Prayer Team 5:30 PM Trinity's Branches 6 PM RC School Board Mtg 7 PM Praise Team	4 10:00 AM Women's Fellowship Circle 5:30 PM Wed. Night Meal 6:15 PM Youth Group 6:30 PM Wed. Night Classes	5	6	7
8 8:45 AM Sunday School 9:15 AM Prayer 10 AM Children's Worship In Sanctuary 10 AM Worship <i>3rd Sunday of Lent</i>	9 RCS "International Day" 3:30 PM Girls Scouts 7 PM Church Council	10 RCS "International Day" 9 AM UM Men's Breakfast 10 AM WARM Ministry 5:30 PM Trinity's Branches 7 PM Praise Team 7 PM Strategic Planning Mtg.	11 RCS "International Day" 9 AM RCS Chapel 5:30 PM Wednesday Night Meal 6:15 PM Youth Group 6:30 PM Wednesday Night Classes	12 RCS "International Day" Week 6:00 PM Food Pantry	13 RCS "International Day" Week RCS Pi Day	14 7:00 AM Pancake Breakfast
15 8:45 AM Sunday School 9:15 AM Prayer 10 AM Children's Worship In Sanctuary 10 AM Worship <i>4th Sunday of Lent</i> 11:45 AM Mission Group Mtg 11:45 Cancer Support Group	16 3:30 PM Girls Scouts	17 St. Patrick's Day RCS, Wear Green! 9 AM UM Men's Breakfast 10 AM WARM Ministry 5:30 PM Trinity's Branches 6:30 PM Finance Mtg. 7 PM Praise Team	18 5:30 PM Wednesday Night Meal 6:15 PM Youth Group 6:30 PM Wednesday Night Classes	19 RCS Spring Pictures 11:00 AM Full Sugar Gang	20 RCS Spring Pictures Riverfront Program 6:30 Silent Auction 7 PM Concert	21 8 AM Girl Scouts Training
22 8:45 AM Sunday School 9:15 AM Prayer 10 AM Children's Worship In Sanctuary 10 AM Worship - <i>5th Sunday of Lent</i> 6 PM Worship Service	23 3:30 PM Girls Scouts 6 PM UMM Supper/Bible Study	24 RCS Teacher Work Day—No classes 9 AM UM Men's Breakfast 10 AM WARM Ministry 2 PM Blood Drive 5:30 PM Trinity's Branches 7 PM Praise Team	25 5:30 PM Wednesday Night Meal 6:15 PM Youth Group 6:30 PM Wednesday Night Classes	26 Spirit Week—Pajama Day 6:00 PM Food Pantry	27 RCS K5—5th Loving Arms Nursing Home Spirit Week—Spirit Day!	28
22 8:45 AM Sunday School 9:15 AM Prayer 10 AM Children's Worship In Sanctuary 10 AM Worship - PALM SUNDAY! 11:30 <i>Dessert Day</i>	30 RCS P3 Trike-A-Thon 3:30 PM Girls Scouts	31 RCS K4 Trike-A-Thon 9 AM UM Men's Breakfast 10 AM WARM Ministry 5:30 PM Trinity's Branches 7 PM Praise Team				



Birthdays

*Faith, Hope, Love abide...
but the greatest of these is love...
1 Corinthians 13:13.*



Anniversaries

- 2 Lil Eldred, Stephanie Coffman, Catherine Winn
- 3 Mark Cook, Maureen Dunford, Jerry Smith
- 4 Andrea Kidwell, Shana Ramey
- 5 Stephanie Noreen, Amber Smith
- 6 Greg Anderson, Josh Barber, Justin Magnotti, Wendy Phillips
- 7 Fred Boyer, Rick Steele
- 8 Clay Fortney, Robbie Myers, Michael Williams
- 9 Aimee Barker
- 10 Judy Reddle, Darla Redmond
- 11 John Alderton
- 12 Kevin Fillickinger, Amanda Dutton, Debbie Moats
- 13 Stephanie Brandon, Nathan Morris, Adrian Salmons
- 14 Kimmie Daniels, Dylan Lee
- 16 Bill Sutherly
- 17 Glen Comer, Ricky Hadley, Patty Lewis
- 18 Evan Cox, Heather Merchant
- 19 Kristy Lenz, Angela Ramey, Kaitlyn Tharp
- 23 Kathy Carter
- 24 Diane Lund
- 26 Kristen McManaway, Jean Sutherly
- 27 Hunter VanDoren
- 29 Tucker Fortney, Doug McCray
- 30 Sam Dunivan, Heather Magnotti
- 31 Hilda Cornwell, Nickie Wheeler

- 1 Joe & Troy Darr
- 4 Ken & Deb Duckworth
- 23 Jason & Sabrina Mullins
- 26 Josh & Stephanie Brandon

