



# T H E M E S S E N G E R

August 2015

RiversEdge United Methodist Church

\*\*\*\*\* [www.riversedgeumc.org](http://www.riversedgeumc.org) \*\*\*\*\*

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## A Note from the Pastor:

It has been a year since I became your pastor, and it has been a very enjoyable year for me. You, the people of RiversEdge UMC, have such a gracious heart. This church knows how to welcome all pilgrims with Christian love. While some have continued on their journey, others have stayed and graced us with their gifts, growing our church and helping us all to be the head, the heart and the hands and feet of Christ here in Spring Bay.

I am so grateful for the volume of outreach ministries we support here. It isn't just the volume, but I rarely hear the sense of have to when we gear up for these ministries. More often, I hear atone of get to. We get to bring Christ to the local children through Vacation Bible School. We get to help the hungry through our Food Pantry. We get to share the income from our rummage sale with the children of Chaddock, the missionaries in Africa and other ministries in our own backyard.

One of the blessings I received during my week at the Kenyon Institute was the transformation of feeling like I have to write into a feeling of I get to write. Part of the transformation was learning to overcome my fear of my writing not being good enough.

We can feel like we are not good enough in various areas of our lives. Sometimes, it is an accurate understanding of reality. I really do know that I lack basic skills in gardening. Other times, we have had one or two bad experiences when we tried something new, which caused us to fear trying something new in the future. In my second year here, I want to keep encouraging all of us to let go of our fears of trying something new or different. I would like to see more people volunteer to read scripture at worship. I would like to see more people give the Praise Band, Choir, or Special Time a try. I would like to see more people volunteer to serve as leaders in the church. If you are feeling God's nudge, but are nervous, please give me or someone else you trust a call. I want to encourage God's gifts in you. Life is too precious to live behind a wall of fear.

Thank you for welcoming me and Pastor Kristi into your midst. We are excited for the new year ahead of us!

Blessings,  
Pastor Andy



- ◆ River is Down, Yay!
- ◆ Breanna Mitchell is engaged.
- ◆ Corinne Delinski and Chad Rafferty were married.
- ◆ Joe and Joanne Helms have a new granddaughter Winslet Magdalene Groom.
- ◆ Randy Waldrip had an appendectomy.
- ◆ Randy Waldrip was here after having appendectomy previous week.
- ◆ Bill Hopp's eye surgeries went well.
- ◆ The blood drive at the church netted 17 units on Saturday.
- ◆ Baby Winslet Groom came home!



Pastor Andy is leading an adult group on Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m. We will be DIGGING DEEPER: deeper into the Bible passage we hear that morning, deeper into what it means to follow Jesus, deeper into how God is at work in our own lives and the world. Please come with questions and a learning spirit. Bring your favorite Bible, or use the ones we have. Let's learn together!

Often, what we believe the Bible teaches has been influenced by art, music and literature. The Mining and Brick-Laying course is open to all adults who are willing to search for the deep truths of the Bible that have often been overlaid by images created by our churches and our culture. It is my hope that in the process we will come to know Christ more fully, who is our sure foundation. The group will meet Monday mornings at 9 a.m.

*Submitted by: Pastor Andy Hopp*



## FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

She started school this morning,  
And she seemed so very small.  
As I walked there beside her  
In the Kindergarten hall.

And as she took her place beside  
the others in the class,  
I realized how all too soon  
Those first few years can pass.

Remembering, I saw her as  
She first learned how to walk.  
The words that we alone made out  
When she began to talk.

This little girl so much absorbed  
In learning how to write.  
It seems as though she must have grown  
To girlhood overnight.

My eyes were blurred by hastily  
I brushed the tears away  
Lest by some word or sign of mine  
I mar her first big day.

Oh how I longed to stay with her  
And keep her by the hand  
To lead her through the places  
That she couldn't understand.

And something closely kin to fear  
Was mingled with my pride.  
I knew she would no longer be  
A baby by my side.

But she must have her chance to live,  
To work her problems out,  
The privilege to grow and learn  
What life is all about.

And I must share my little girl  
With friends and work and play;  
She's not a baby anymore —  
She's in Kindergarten today.

<http://www.turnbacktogo.com>



## TAKE CARE OF MY CHURCH

If anyone has suggestions for the trustees to improve our church building and grounds or sees a need for items necessary for our comfort, please place your suggestions on a note card or paper and place it in the wooden church sitting on top of the piano in the 'Hospitality Hall'.



**Rummage Sale for Missions:** August 6 open 5 p.m. - 8 p.m., August 7 open 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. and August 8 open 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. We will be needing help for setup, take down and for staffing the tables. Last year our sale collected over \$2,000 that went straight to missions. We gave money to the Santa Express for Chaddock students, purchased additional supplies for our Backpack Buddies and supported our missionary along with some students in Africa.



## FUNERAL DINNERS

If you would like a phone call and/or email notification in order to donate food or help in set-up and clean-up when we are providing a funeral dinner, please let me know by calling me at 822-8770, emailing me at jude187@mchsi.com or contacting me in person. I would like to create a list of volunteers. I want to thank all of you who have provided food and help in the past.



Sometimes, the best way to get to know someone is during a meal. Since Sundays can be hectic, your two pastors would like to have a time to sit down and visit with you all so that we can get to know each other better. Our next potluck is to be determined.



10:30 a.m. **WORSHIP SERVICE HELPERS** are needed. There really is joy in serving! If you are interested in ushering, reading scripture, greeting or being an acolyte, please sign up on the Schedule Sheet in the back of the sanctuary.

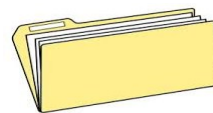
If you are interested in doing **SOMETHING SPECIAL** (music, reading poetry, inspiring pictures, life testimonies or other creative ways to worship God on Sunday, contact Judy (822-8770) or Pastor Andy (883-1422). Thanks to all of you who have assisted in the past.

The **PRAISE AND WORSHIP TEAM** is looking for singers and musicians. If you have any interest learning more, please contact Jarrod Doty at church, by phone at 309.657.8904 or by email at jduty69@gmail.com.

If you, or anyone you know, want to fill in on the **ORGAN** or **PIANO** occasionally, please text or phone Carla Doty at 657-8903 or email her at doug-doty@aol.com.

**CHOIR** will start up the 2nd Sunday of September. Please contact Judy Schaer if you are interested in joining (email jude187@msn.com or call at 822-8770).

The Family Life Committee is looking for new members with fresh ideas of other activities to draw more people to the **FALL FESTIVAL**. We will be meeting August 10 at 6:00 p.m. in the Hospitality Hall to discuss if it should continue or not. Everyone is welcome to attend!



## UPDATING RECORDS

If you would like your name added to the birthday list, have had an email address change or would like your email address added to any of the church email groups (1-receive announcements & newsletter, 2-receive prayer requests, 3 receive Pastor Andy's Thought for the week). See Judy, email at jude187@msn.com or call at 822-8770. Also, check with other family members.

*Submitted by: Judy Schaer, Worship Chair*



We are wanting to start a "Walk and Pray" Group. Pastor Andy would like to help people meet their fitness goals along with taking time to be with God. He doesn't have a group formed, so if you are interested, please contact Pastor Andy at 309-883-1422 or [try2hopp@msn.com](mailto:try2hopp@msn.com).



The **DIVORCE SUPPORT** is open for anyone who would like to join. This group is for anyone in midst of divorce or who are living life after divorce. We meet on **August 24 at 7:00 p.m.** If you are interested in joining us please contact Pastor Kristi Hopp via cell (309-573-3061) or e-mail ([kristi\\_hopp@yahoo.com](mailto:kristi_hopp@yahoo.com)).



John Schaer is still collecting aluminum cans to recycle. If you have any, you may leave them in the entry area of the river side of the church. You may call John at 822-8770 if you would like him to pick them up. Once he gets a truck load, he will take them to the recycle center. Not only will this help the earth, but the money will go to the Youth Group Program.



Every time we have Food Pantry Day, we will have our **King's Closet** upstairs at the Annex. We have clothes, other small items, or produce for local people to take and use, if they need it. Bring items all month. It comes in free and goes out free, no charge. Anything left over will be taken to Good Will or South Side Missions.



Moms give and give and give some more, but they rarely take time to receive. No wonder mom-burnout threatens to snuff out the simple joys of being a mother.

Wouldn't it be nice if moms had some time just for themselves to encourage one another, learn from each other's challenges and most of all, be refreshed through laughter? That is what **MomTime** is all about! Come and join us for MomTime Saturday, August 22 at 9:30 a.m. – food, faith, friends and fun!



Our Missions Committee is asking us to collect "**Box Tops for Education**" for the Riverview Grade School. You may bring them any Sunday to church, and leave them in the yellow box. From time to time during the year we will take them to the school. Thank you for your prayers, and the many ways we support our local school!

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## CHURCH EQUIPMENT POLICY

We are requesting all of your cooperation. Due to potential damage to our church equipment: Our kitchen equipment needs to stay in our kitchen. The white tables can't leave the church property, and the white chairs can't leave the church building. We have metal chairs available. If you want to borrow them, please contact the church office.

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I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW A BENEVOLENT GOD CAN LET BACK-TO-SCHOOL HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE

08-24-2009





## Music Special Monte Doty



# AUGUST 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3 7 p.m. Trustees	4	5	6 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. Rummage Sale	7 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Rummage Sale	8 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Rummage Sale
9	10 9 a.m. MABL Bible Study 6 p.m. Fall Festival Meeting	11 4:30 p.m. Publicity Meeting 7 p.m. Ad Council	12	13	14	15
16	17 9 a.m. MABL Bible Study	18	19	20 7 p.m. Ladies of Learning (LOL)	21	22
23	24 9 a.m. MABL Bible Study 7 p.m. Divorce Support Group	25 4:30 p.m. Publicity Committee Training	26	27	28 9-11 a.m. Food Pantry/King's Closet	29
30	31 9 a.m. MABL Bible Study 7 p.m. Staff/Parish					

**OUR MOTTO:** "The Church That Cares"

**OUR MISSION** (our purpose): "Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ through our welcome, worship, and witness."

**OUR VISION** (what we hope to be): "We are a community of caring people striving to meet the spiritual and physical needs of our neighbors."

**WORSHIP SERVICES:**

Sunday 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

**NURSERY:**

Sunday 8-11:45 a.m.  
(infant-kindergarten)

**SUNDAY SCHOOL GROUPS :** 9:15-10:15 a.m.

D.O.C.K. (Preschool – 5<sup>th</sup> grade)  
Youth (grades 6 – 12)  
Adults

**YOUTH GROUPS:** (6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades)

Sunday Once a Month TBA  
11:45 a.m. – Jr. High & Sr. High

**CHOIR PRACTICE:** (7<sup>th</sup> grade-Adult)

September through May  
7 p.m. Wednesday evenings, as announced

**O.U.R.: Outwardly Upwardly Righteously**  
(first Sunday of month)

**LOL: Ladies of Learning**  
7 p.m. 1st & 3rd Thursdays

**MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT:**  
TBA

**DIVORCE SUPPORT GROUP:**  
7 p.m. 2nd & 4th Mondays

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**500 N. Chicago St.**  
**Spring Bay, IL 61611-9118**

**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

