

The Springs



January 29, 2014

Rev. Don Tabberer



An Unexpected Adventure

If you were in worship yesterday you know a little about our adventure. It is worth talking about because it is something that has never happened in my ministry and because it gave me an opportunity to gather insights that may have otherwise been unavailable to me. One of those insights is into my own stubbornness.

Since I have been sick for the past week I probably should have stayed home yesterday morning. However, my stubbornness said, “get up and go; whatever I have is not bad enough to keep me away from worship.” If you were in first service you may also have wished that I had stayed at home. I managed to deliver a message, but my energy and enthusiasm were way below average. After worship my wife and other church members decided that I needed to go to the ER at St. John’s to discover what was really going on here. With Janna Cheek at our side, Linda and I set off for St. John’s. If you were in second service, I’m sorry I missed you.

I won’t bore you with all the gory details; that’s not what I learned here today. They did all the customary blood-letting; they allowed me to sample two bags of their finest chateau le Saline – I-V, shaken, not stirred; but, most-importantly, they provided care. For this I am grateful.

This adventure is about the people we encountered in the ER at St. John’s. I had no idea we would see celebrities there! At one point “George Strait” came in to visit a friend. He’s a bit shorter “in person,” but there’s no mistaking that hat. Then there was “CeeLo Green”. We never found out why he was there. Finally, there was “Amy Winehouse” – or as many in the ER called her – a “frequent flier”. Obviously, “George” and CeeLo” were just great look-alikes that helped us pass the time.

“Amy”, on the other hand, is a “type.” There is no mistaking why she was there and it was pretty obvious that she’d been there before, many times. This girl is an addict. As she cried out for help to the staff, it was sad to think that the help they can offer is so temporary. They might make her comfortable, stop the nausea, and give her a place to sleep. Ultimately, though, her help must come from a source she has yet to recognize; through a strength she has not yet felt. I can only pray for the “Amy’s” and be sad. I don’t have any answers, I only have questions about how millions of people across the country, thousands right here in Tulsa, find their way into these dark places and get lost. *Lord, I pray that somehow your Light will pierce the deep darkness that chains the addict to their drug of choice. In Jesus’ name. Amen.*

There was a man pushing a young lady across the waiting room in a wheel chair. As they passed us, Linda simply commented that he was “a good driver”. The girl in the chair simply replied, “Practice.” I wondered what she meant.

There were those beautiful twin boys who came with Mom and Dad; Dad’s arm was hurt. One of the boys was busy with his Thomas the Train Engine, while the other stood very still in front of me fascinated by the wall of bubbles by my chair. Mom said quietly, “He’s autistic; he loves bubbles.” Every now and then this bright two-year-old face would steal a quick glance at me. I would smile and he went back to bubble-watching. He was so calm, so involved in his private game; he even allowed Janna to pick him up so he could touch the bubble wall. I knew the boy probably had many worse moments than this and thanked God that at least, for now, he was calm with his bubbles. These beautiful twins remind me of the absolute perfection of God’s creation, even where we fail to recognize it and seek to criticize.

Continued-See inside

SOMEONE'S PRAYING, LORD.....

I was reading a devotion this morning from Revelations 2:4, where the words, "You don't love me or each other as you did at first," stood out. If there is no personal, daily fellowship with Christ, then we are missing out on His tender love. Let us begin each day loving Him more, knowing He will help us to love others as well. Our daily prayers will keep us in tune to that tender love. Our daily prayers for each other is a vital part of putting Christ first in our lives. Let us be open to His will for His church and His people as we move into 2014. Let us especially pray for Pastor Don and our staff this week that good health will be returned to each of them. Let us also be in prayer for our new youth director and our youth as a brand new ministry will soon begin. Virginia

Putting God First in Living and Giving

Do we worship idols? The answer may surprise you.

During the month of February our church will hear about God's generosity and our response as we experience our stewardship program, *first: putting GOD first in living and giving*, developed by author and pastor Mike Slaughter of Ginghamburg Church. There will be opportunities in worship, in small groups, in youth and children's classes, and in devotions that can be used at church or at home.

We are made in God's image and are meant to be creators of life and hope, not the consumers of our culture's shiny gods. We have the ability to change the world and create a legacy that will live forever in the lives of generations to follow. That legacy starts when each of us takes the hard steps of financial discipline and fulfilling the call to generosity that God has placed in all of us.

The goal of this stewardship program is not to make you feel guilty, nor is it to say that you have to be exactly like this or that person. The goal is for all of us to ask questions of ourselves and be open to the possibility that God will lead us in new directions in our lives.

This program is completely separate from "**Building for Life.**" This is about being faithful stew-

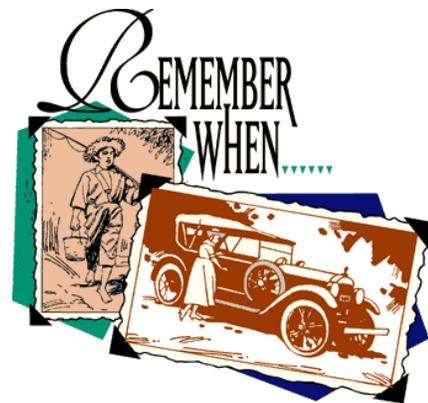
ards of everything in our lives and we apply this stewardship the mission and ministries of our church every day. During the four-week program, we'll be challenged in a number of different ways. We'll be asked to look for the idols in our own lives (Hint: Most of them aren't animals made of gold) and name the ways these idols enslave us, holding us back from living in the true freedom that God desires for us.

We'll be challenged to consider the place that money, work, and debt have in our own lives. What are our common understandings of these, and might the witness of Scripture lead us to some different understandings?

We'll be challenged to ask ourselves what it means for us to be faithful, to save, and to give. How do we balance all the competing interests in our lives? What priorities does God want us to have?

Finally, we'll be challenged to give with our hearts, not out of obligation or a sense of duty and not just when we think the recipient deserves our gift. Instead, we'll be challenged to give the way God gives—freely, fully, with no favorites or expectations of repayment.

It is our prayer that, at the end of these four weeks, we will have begun to grow into the individuals and the church that God knows we can be. Please join us in *first: putting GOD first in living and giving*.



Church History

Do you have history on either Prattville United Methodist Church or First United Methodist Church? We need it! Especially for PUMC. Please call Tracey or bring what you have by the office. We can make copies if necessary.

Thank You Noah Class!

The Noah Class recently donated a DVD based on Max Lucado's Bible Study from his book *Fearless* to the church library. We hope other Sunday School classes might enjoy it too.

Re-Ignite

The Tulsa District annual Re-Ignite event is coming up on Sunday afternoon, February 16, at Boston Avenue United Methodist Church. If you haven't attended before then think about it. They are a lot of fun. We have the added bonus this year of having afternoon sessions. We will be able to attend worship at our church, have lunch and head on over to Boston Avenue for a full afternoon. Afternoon workshops will be followed by a mission opportunity that we can all participate in and we will end the afternoon with Bishop Robert Hayes leading us in worship. That is always a treat!

Re-Ignite events are for everyone in our church, not just the pastor and church leaders. There is something for everyone. The workshops provide an opportunity to share ideas with individuals from other churches and to gain new insights from well-prepared leaders and participants.

There are options for children and youth. Childcare for children up to Pre-K will also be provided but you must be registered for that by February 10th.

If you want to sign up or have questions please see Amy Miller on Sunday. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children and youth.

Just For Laughs...

Smith climbs to the top of Mt. Sinai to get close enough to talk to God.

Looking up, he asks the Lord, "God, what does a million years mean to you?"

The Lord replies, "A minute."

Smith asks, "And what does a million dollars mean to you?"

The Lord replies, "A penny."

Smith asks God, "Can I have a penny?"

The Lord replies, "In a minute."

Haha

Did You Know...?

Did you know a large group of men meet every Wednesday morning at the Crescent Café for a devotional and breakfast. They meet at 7:30 a.m. in the banquet hall. It is a large group of men who enjoy good fellowship and would love to have all SSUMC men join them.

And did you know the first Wednesday of every month the women do the same??? All women are invited to Crescent Café at 7:30 a.m. for food, fun and fellowship. Come see what all of them are about.

Did you know the 2nd Monday of every month there is a "2nd Monday Book Club?" You are invited to join them any time. They will get you caught up and you will enjoy joining this group for the fellowship and experience!



Did you know there is a Needlers group that meets the 2nd & 4th Thursday of every month. This group gets together to knit, crochet, needlepoint... You are welcome to join them. They do a lot of community work for hospitals and nursing homes and they would love to have you. Bring a sack lunch as they meet from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the parlor. Invite a friend to join you!

Did you know Sand Springs UMC has something for everyone. Ask the pastor where you can get connected.

Due to Illness, We're a little late!

Because of so much illness, our newsletter is late this week. We hope you are getting all the information you need in time. But if you have questions or concerns, call Tracey in the office.

Tracey's office hours are:

Mon-Thurs-8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Friday-8:00 a.m.-Noon(ish).



Sunday Lists

Sunday Volunteers—February 2

Visitors Center & Coffee-Harmony

Head Usher-8:30 a.m.-Frank Johnston

Head Usher-11:00 a.m.-Eddy David

Young Disciples Lesson-8:30a.m.-Kristen Henry

Young Disciples Lesson-11:00 a.m.-Kristen Henry

Child. Church-8:30 a.m.-Kingdom Kids

Child. Church-11:00 a.m.-Kristen & Julia Henry

Counters-Sondra Bogert & Dick Ford

Communion Helpers

8:30	11:00
Lisa Comer	David Allen
Julie Ferguson	Elva Anderson
Leesa Hairgrove	Don Baldrige
Buster Hall	Virginia Baldrige

Sunday Volunteers—February 9

Visitors Center & Coffee-Harmony

Head Usher-8:30 a.m.-Frank Johnston

Head Usher-11:00 a.m.-Eddy David

Young Disciples Lesson-8:30a.m.-Cathy Gifford

Young Disciples Lesson-11:00 a.m.-Cathy Gifford

Child. Church-8:30 a.m.-Kingdom Kids

Child. Church-11:00 a.m.-Debbie S. & Marty D.

Counters-Sheree Buttler & Jami Warkentin

Communion Helpers

8:30	11:00
Julia Henry	Helen Brumley
Katherine Reeves	Raven Brumley
Brooke Herndon	Eddy David
Amanda Honeycutt	Jan Dickerson

Please Keep In Prayer

Ruth Weaver, Donna Woodruff, Destinee Tackett, Sylvia Johnson, Clinton Wilson, Martha Scudder, Virginia Vice, Margaret Pyeatt, Theresa Rosales, Mary Lea Forsythe, Marilyn Peil, Elsie Jones, Pat Cheek, Michael Bostwick, Jay Moore, Jim Wilson, Cathy Hula, Cathy Snow and Family, Pauline Hanigar, Beverly Rousey, Morene Baker, Charlotte Cain, Unspoken requests, Darryl Muse

Acknowledgements

Thank You...

Dear SSUMC and Prayer Chain Friends,

Thank you for your prayers and kind words during the loss of Roger's mother. God Bless each and everyone of you.

Roger and Jo Ann Nelson

Continued from front cover-Pastor's article...

Then there was the elderly couple who just seemed tired of waiting. After one more trip to the desk to go through the next phase, they came and sat by us. She commented they had arrived an hour before we did, but they were making progress. I said to her, "Each step in the process gives us hope."

Maybe that's what this article is really about. There is hope in knowing that people depend on one another and care about each other. There is hope in looking around a room full of strangers, hoping for a friendly face, and realizing that you are not alone. There is hope in the realization that, no matter how bad you feel, there is someone down the hall who is much worse off than you are. There is hope in being able to pass through seven difficult hours in the ER with your sense of humor intact because there has been so much to see and learn during the day. There is hope in the beautiful brown eyes of a two-year-old mesmerized by the bubbles. There is hope in the smiles and care given by wonderful nurses who do their jobs and leave you with, "Have a blessed day!" There is hope.

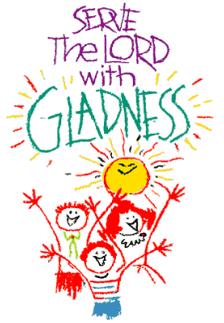
I am thankful that my problem is only that a nasty little bug has taken up residence inside me and has decided that he wants to be alone in there. Thankfully, tests identified this little guy and I am taking maximum strength dCon to chase him out – just kidding, that's just easier than the 31 letters of "pharma-lese" that really describes this stuff. The point is I am on the mend at last.

One last thing. There is hope in being able to count on the wisdom of others to cut through your stubbornness and drag you into the ER when it's time. And, there is hope in having a soft shoulder on which to place your aching head as you wait, almost patiently, in the ER on a weekend. Linda, God gave me you.

*Hope springs eternal,
Pastor Don*

KidZone News

On Sunday we are starting the our new lesson series: First – putting GOD first in living and giving. This is the children's version of the material our Adult Small Groups are doing.



The kids will be singing with Ms. Cathy on either the February 9th. So make plans to be in worship that day! See you Sunday!

WE HAVE WHITE SMOKE!

I am very pleased to announce that after a long process our Staff-Parish Relations Committee has selected a new Director of Student Ministries. **Mark Giovi** will be joining our ministry team February 1, 2014. Mark is a December 2013 graduate of OSU with a degree in psychology. Mark served in two summer internships at Colcord Ranch Youth Camp, as well as an internship at Kirk of the Hills Presbyterian Church in Tulsa. Most recently, Mark has been working as interim Youth Minister at Southern Hills Baptist Church in Tulsa. Mark plays guitar and sings; he is also an Eagle Scout. He is engaged to Jenny Rudolph and they are planning a May wedding. You will have a chance to meet Mark very soon. Please pray for everyone during this important transition.



UMW Yearbook

Ladies... just a reminder-I need all your information by Monday, February 3rd. I will be working on the yearbook next week. Please be sure you have turned in all changes with correct information, new members and all their information, and any other information for

your circle. Please be sure to include ALL information for new members.

Everything needs to be submitted on paper or in the 2013 yearbook. You can turn it in this week or Sunday by placing it on my desk.

Thank you..... Tracey

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

FLC-Family Life Center

Wednesday, January 29

7:30 a.m.-Men's Breakfast—Crescent Café
10:00 a.m.-Exercise to Music
3:30 p.m.-Art Class-F. Hall
6:30 p.m.-The Awakening Youth-FLC
6:00 p.m.-Chancel Ringers
7:00 p.m.-Chancel Choir

Thursday, January 30

11:00 a.m.-Needlers-Parlor
5:30 p.m.-FLC in use

Friday, January 31

6:00 p.m.-FLC in use

Saturday, February 1-Welcome Mark Giovi!

2:00 p.m.-Baby Shower in F. Hall

Sunday, February 2

8:30 a.m.-Modern Worship; 11:00 a.m.-Classic Worship
10:00 a.m.-Sunday School
1:00 p.m.-Youth Mentor Group
3:00 p.m.-Blue Devil Basketball Practice-FLC

Monday, February 3

10:00 a.m.-Exercise to Music-FLC
7:00 p.m.-Centennial Meeting
7:00 p.m.-Boy Scouts-FLC

Tuesday, February 4

6:30 p.m.-Cub Scouts-FLC
7:00 p.m.-Praise Team
7:00 p.m.-Al-Anon-Upstairs

Wednesday, February 5

7:30 a.m.-M/W Breakfast-Crescent Café
10:00 a.m.-Exercise to Music-FLC
3:30 p.m.-Art Class-F. Hall
6:00 p.m.-Chancel Ringers
6:30 p.m.-Youth-FLC
7:00 p.m.-Chancel Choir

Thursday, February 6

5:30 p.m.-FLC in use

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