



The Springs

Rev. Don Tabberer

February 26, 2014



FROM THE PASTOR
"So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankful-

ness." (Colossians 2:6-7)

Over the past several weeks we've been going through a series called **"FIRST: Putting God first in your living and giving."** Many of you have followed along in this series in small group studies; others have heard or read each week's messages on the topic. As I have worked on each message, I have been inspired by the many things God has put in my way to help me understand him better. One day last week my daily devotion included the Scripture passage quoted above and these words: *"Trust and thankfulness will get you safely through this day. Trust protects you from worrying and obsessing. Thankfulness keeps you from criticizing and complaining: those 'sister sins' that so easily entangle you."* If we are truly going to put God first in every aspect of our lives, we must be willing to trust God. In a way, this sounds so simple; trusting the God who created us and everything else – well, of course I trust God! On the other hand, do our thoughts about trust really translate into our daily behavior? Do we really act like we trust God for everything? I'm not so sure the answer is "yes".

Trusting God is a choice that we must make thousands of times a day. My devotion suggests: *"The more you choose to trust Me, the easier it becomes."* It's kind of like acquiring any skill...the more you practice, the better you get. The better you get, the more confident you feel and the more you trust your ability to accomplish the task. In order to learn to trust God in all things, we must practice trusting God. That means setting our focus on God all the time, in everything we do and every time we need to make a choice about anything. We need to practice being aware of what God might choose instead of what we want to choose. Once we trust that God is guiding our decisions, we can be thankful for the outcomes of those decisions. As Paul wrote: *"Trust protects you from worrying and obsessing. Thankfulness keeps you from criticizing and complaining."*

You may wonder how this applies to daily life. Here's just one example: When it's time for you to choose what you are going to eat for lunch, you have several options. God probably would prefer that you choose something healthy to eat for lunch; you might prefer a cheeseburger and fries with a Coke, followed by a cherry turnover. How would trusting God affect this decision? It may sound a little silly, but that is what trusting God with all aspects of our life really looks like. God is involved with all our life and has an interest in every part of it. What you eat, where you go for entertainment, how you react to other people, and how you spend your money are just a few things that represent where we need to focus on God in order to trust God and be thankful for the outcomes.

Some people will read this and think that it is restrictive and gives us no room for free will. Living this way makes us slaves to rules of the church. This sounds like we are just robots for God. I disagree. I believe that living this way gives us great freedom. Freedom from the burdens of worrying about whether or not we are making the right decisions. Freedom from the stress of living with the results of our bad choices. Freedom to be the person that God intends us to be. It just seems so much easier to choose freedom and allow God to be in charge of everything.

Does this also mean that life will be a bowl of cherries, that we'll never make a mistake, and we will never again suffer? Absolutely not! We are human beings and our best efforts will often fall short. What this means is that we will be much better off than we are now because we will pay attention to God more often than we do now. We will still choose the burger and fries more often than we should. However: *"The more you choose to trust Me, the easier it becomes."* The more we trust God, the more thankful we become and the more we have to be thankful for.

Trust and be thankful every day,
Pastor Don



February is Black History Month. March is Women's History Month...

Don sent me a link to several stories for the newsletter to capture Women's History Month. I chose to tell

you about *Bishop Leontine Kelly*. She was a young black woman from Cincinnati and she wanted to be in the ministry. Being an African American and being female, this was going to be a tough haul. One day, a woman rang the parsonage doorbell and Leontine answered the door. The woman said to her, "Young lady what do you plan to be?" She said she had only planned to be at school that day but the lady, Dr. Mary McCloud Bethune said, "You must plan to be somebody." It was very profound for a young girl 8 or 9 years old.

Leontine was a quiet and unassuming young lady but it is said "she swam in the deeps of life knowing there were sharks in the water."

Her legacy was how she was raised; to believe advocacy and ministry go together. With 2 family generations in ministry before her, she was raised with strength and perseverance. Her family was in a racist church in the 60's when Central Jurisdiction was established to give "blacks in the church a separate area." Her brother asked her dad why they stayed and he said, "Son, you don't win the battle by leaving the battlefield and this is our battlefield." They were very profound words for her.

When it was time for Bishop elections, the Southeast, where she was from, did not support her being elected. The Western Jurisdiction decided to do something unique that year and they were going to elect all bishops of color. A colleague from the east asked, "You aren't going to elect her are you?" In 1984, the Western Jurisdictional Conference of the U. M. church elected her to the episcopacy-the second female and the first African American woman to be elected bishop to any Christian denomination. Her platform, if you will, was Service, Advocacy, and Praise. She made her witness where ever she went. She said, "Celebrate that God has given life to this period. Use whatever facilities you have as well as you can to relate to people. Life doesn't end until it ends."

Bishop Leontine Kelly
1920-2012



SEMINARY LITE

Theological Education for the Laity

Spring 2014 Course

"United Methodist Heritage"

Saturday, April 5, 2014 (10 a.m. – 3 p.m.)
Boston Avenue United Methodist Church
1301 S Boston Ave, Tulsa, OK 74119

In this course we will examine the basics of our United Methodist identity: History, Polity, and Doctrine. Questions will be considered such as: Where do we come from as a denomination? What does John Wesley have to do with us today? How do we organize the denomination and why? What are the basic beliefs of United Methodists? Do I have to agree with them? Why do we baptize infants? And why does any of this matter?

Suggested Reading: *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (2012) pages 11-142.* Also consider reading the following sermons by John Wesley (available online):

The Scripture Way of Salvation"
Catholic Spirit"
The Means of Grace"

This is one of a series of classes being offered to help the laity learn more about our church and its mission in the world. This class is great for anyone, whether you are a new Methodist or have been a Methodist all your life. You will learn or refresh your memory on a number of topics that will help you better understand who we are as United Methodists. The fee for this class is \$50.00. Registration forms are available at: www.spst.edu/Seminary-Lite. Then click on the link for: Tulsa, OK Spring 2014 Date: United Methodist Heritage, April 5th. You may also call the church office with questions or help in getting registered.

**UMW Yearbooks are Complete!
See your Circle Chairperson or
pick one up at your next Circle
Meeting.**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Happy Birthday to Us!

*Sunday, March 2nd
Family Life Center
4:00 p.m.*

*Come join the fun for an
"Old Fashioned Ice
cream and cake
Birthday Party"*

Fun... Games... Prizes

(Prizes could be for best dresses as "100 year old person & child"

if you missing sign up to bring ice cream or cake, call Gerrie and let her know—918-245-4567.

100 Years of History...

There is a table on the east side of the sanctuary full of history!!! If you have not stopped by, you will want to do so. It is all the early history of the Prattville UMC and the First UMC. There are pictures, stories, timelines... Stop by and take a look occasionally as the table changes as more articles are "dug up." Remember, if you have any history, please give us a copy so we can include it with the celebration.



UMW Brunch

Saturday, March 8 at 9:30 a.m. we will have our annual UMW Brunch downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. All women are invited whether you are in a UMW circle or not. This year, our speaker will be Kathy Campbell who has a Doctorate degree in Pharmacology and owns her own pharmacy in Owasso. She will be sharing tips on how to be healthy and feel good. She can answer your questions about the interactions of the medicines you might be taking and how they work

with foods and vitamins. I have heard her speak and you'll really want to hear what she has to say. If you'll need a baby sitter, please let the church know so we can make those arrangements.

Betty Smith



March Calendar of Events

March 2-Confirmation Mtg-10 am-F. Hall
March 2-Youth Mentor Group-1 pm
March 2-Happy Birth-

day Ice Cream Social
4 pm-FLC

March 4-UMW Executive Meeting-5:30 pm
Parlor

March 5-Ash Wednesday-6:30 pm

March 5-No Bells & No Youth

March 8-UMW Brunch-9:30 am-F. Hall

March 8-FLC in use

March 9-Daylight Savings Time Begins

March 10-2nd Monday Book Club-Parlor

March 11-Lenten Service/Lunch-SSUMC
Noon

March 13-Stewardship Meeting-7 pm-Parl.

March 13-Needlers-11 am-Parlor

March 16-Youth Mentor Group-1 pm

March 16-Church Council-2:30 pm-Parlor

March 16-CIA/Pathfinders Party-5:30 pm
F. Hall

March 17-21-Spring Break

March 18-Lenten Service/Lunch

1st Presbyterian Church

March 19-No Youth

March 23-Finance Meeting-1:15 pm-Parlor

March 25-Lenten Service/Lunch

St. Andrew Lutheran Church

March 25-Priscille Circle-7 pm

Susan Edwards Home

March 26-Youth to Greentree-5:30 pm

March 27-Needlers-11 am-F. Hall

March 27-Ruth Esther Circle-1 pm-F. Hall

March 27-Faith Circle-7 pm-Parlor

March 30-Youth Mentor Group-1 pm

RE-IGNITE

On Sunday, February 16, 24 members of our congregation attended the Tulsa District Re-Ignite Leadership Workshops at Boston Avenue UMC. Once again, we had the largest representation of any single church in the Tulsa District at this event. Bishop Robert E. Hayes, Jr. preached at the closing worship service and reminded us that, as the church, we must re-ignite the flame of passion for Jesus and for his mission to the world. I was so proud of our church for sending so many people to spend their Sunday afternoon learning, worshipping, and doing mission. That's right – **DOING MISSION**. One of the highlights of the day was the opportunity to work together on small mission projects to benefit Restore Hope, The Day Center for the Homeless, and The Happy Children's Home. What a great way to get excited about being the church! Congratulations to SSUMC!

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation in The United Methodist Church is a time of intentional preparation, it gives teens and tweens the opportunity to reflect on the most basic tenants of our faith and gives them a safe environment to ask questions and grapple with the divine truths and mysteries proclaimed by the church of Jesus Christ. Confirmation helps youth to investigate to depths of the faith and helps them begin to understand what it means to become a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ, and to make their first public profession of faith. During this time young persons "make firm" what has gone before: God's prevenient grace, baptism, the teaching and witness of parents and other persons of faith, the teachings and life together in the church, and the student's own growing faith. Youth are invited to claim for themselves the name Christian and the name United Methodist. We believe that Confirmation is a significant step in the journey of faith.

At Sand Springs UMC we work toward completing confirmation during the 6th or 7th grade. Students do not always come to us at the right time to be able to participate in confirmation during those years and we want to include any student, above the 6th grade, who wants to be involved in this meaningful program. Our plan for 2014 is to begin confirmation classes the week of March 23rd with the goal of holding the Confirmation Worship Service on Sunday, May 4th at 11:00 AM. Any student who is in the 6th grade or above is welcome. Parents should contact the Church Office at 918-245-5955 or Amy Miller at 918-245-3076 for more information.

DOLLAR-A-DAY...

The totals are in for 2013... [Drum roll please]...

We paid 69.58% of our 2013 apportionment obligation. This represents an increase from the 55% we paid in 2013, which translates to a dollar increase of \$12,435. I believe that the majority of this progress can be attributed to the **"Dollar-A-Day" Campaign** and the work of our Stewardship Ministry Team. I am so proud of their work and the difference they are making in the life of our church.

As you have been hearing over the past few weeks, it is vital to our Christian lives and the life of our church that we once again begin to embrace the concepts of faithful stewardship of God's gifts to us and work toward bringing in the full tithe as we are commanded by God. Our 2014 Stewardship Campaign – **"FIRST: Putting God first in our living and our giving"** – has focused on the fact the faithful stewardship is about offering all that we have back to God so God can multiply it and use it for God's purposes. We cannot withhold anything from God because everything we have belongs to God in the first place.

Congratulations on the progress we were able to make in 2013. Let us continue to move forward and achieve the goal of once again paying 100% of our apportionments to be used by God for connectional ministry around the world. Let us visualize all the ministry that our church can do when we have all the resources we need.

Imagine what we can be as servants of God in this community if we will simply offer ourselves back to God.

What does \$1 do? Much of that dollar makes possible the work of our local church. Conference Treasurer Brian Bakeman said 16 cents goes to the connected ministries of the Church.



Lenten Lunch Series

Once again this year several churches in Sand Springs will be joining together to host the Tuesdays at Noon Lenten Lunch Series. Each of the six Tuesdays in Lent we will gather at a different church at noon for a time of worship and then we will gather together for fellowship and a light lunch. The day is designed so that working adults can be on their way by 1:00 PM and back to work. We are scheduled to host the first service on March 11th. You are invited to assist by bringing a crock pot of soup,

crackers, bread, or a dessert. This series is always a blessing and everyone is welcome. Please join us.

March 11 - Sand Springs United Methodist Church

4th and Main

March 18 – First Presbyterian Church

222 N Adams Road

March 25 – St. Andrew Lutheran Church

3201 S 113th W Avenue

April 1 – First Christian Church

501 N Main

April 8 – St. Patrick’s Catholic Church

204 E 4th

April 15 – St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church

601 Lake Drive

LAY LEADERSHIP NEWS

At a special Charge Conference on Sunday, February 23, Pat Cheek was elected Finance Chair for 2014 and Tim Katzung was elected to fill a vacant position on the Board of Trustees. We are very grateful to these two men for their willingness to serve our church. Thank you to all our leadership team members for their continued hard work and support of the mission and ministry of SSUMC.



Heads Up from SSPD...

You should be aware that City Ordinance prohibits parking within thirty feet of a stop sign. This applies to every intersection where parking is permitted and a stop sign is installed. Of particular interest to us is along Main Street approaching the intersection at 4th. Please be careful how close you park to the stop sign. SSPD is watching and issuing traffic tickets.

Sunday Lists

Sunday Volunteers—March 2

Visitors Center & Coffee-UpRising Young Adults
 Head Usher-8:30 a.m.-Frank Johnston
 Head Usher-11:00 a.m.-Eddy David
 Young Disciples Lesson-8:30a.m.-Julie Ferguson
 Young Disciples Lesson-11:00 a.m.-Julie Ferguson
 Child. Church-8:30 a.m.-Kingdom Kids
 Child. Church-11:00 a.m.-Katherine R. & Julie F.
 Counters-Betty or Howard Smith & Karen Wilder

Communion Servers

8:30	11:00
JoAnn Nelson	Betty Smith
Roger Nelson	Howard Smith
Taylor Pritchard	Linda Tabberer
Paige Pulscher	David Allen

Sunday Volunteers—March 9

Visitors Center & Coffee-UpRising Young Adults
 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. & Jan D.
 Counters-Diana Pond & Jack Vest

Communion Servers

8:30	11:00
Kristen Henry	Elva Anderson
Bob Schmidt	Don Baldrige
Jody Seaman	Virginia Baldrige
Jim Shaw	Helen Brumley

Please Keep In Prayer

Ruth Weaver, Donna Woodruff, Destinee Tackett, Sylvia Johnson, Clinton Wilson, Martha Scudder, Virginia Vice, Margaret Pyeatt, Marilyn Peil, Michael Bostwick, Cathy Hula, Beverly Rousey, Charlotte Cain, Unspoken requests, Darryl Muse

Acknowledgements

Thank You...

Thank you for all the prayers, visits and cards while I was in the hospital. You are very special to me and I love knowing you are praying and caring on my behalf!

Sincerely—Morene Baker

Thank You...

A big "Thank You" to the Discovery Class and all who helped in getting the beautiful corner table for my new TV that I received. It made more room as well as looking better. May God's Blessings be with each of you.

Martha Scudder



The Awakening

The Awakening exists to...

"Teach students to genuinely honor Christ through service, reaching out to those around them, and building up a community based on love for one another"

Upcoming Events

March 5th – Ash Wednesday

Worship @ Church 6:30 p.m.

March 12th – The Awakening

March 19th – No Youth

March 26th – The Awakening @ Green Tree

March 27th – March Madness Fundraiser

Update

I hope that this update finds you well. I would first of all like to say how much I have enjoyed working with your students over the past few weeks. They are an amazing group with a huge heart for one another and reaching their community. I am so excited to see what the Lord is going to do in each of our lives!

I have begun to get more acclimated and so naturally the calendar is beginning to fill up. The Awakening went to Green Tree a couple weeks ago and we had a great time spending time with the residents!

March is right around the corner and so I have posted all the events scheduled. As you can see, we are doing our annual Blue Devils vs. Old Dudes basketball game and I will be looking for volunteers to help with that very soon! If you would be willing to help, do not hesitate to let me know!

Let me leave you with a thought that sums up everything we have been learning over the last few weeks. Always put God first and use your gifts and talents to further his kingdom. God can use each of us. We simply have to be willing to let Him.

Your Fellow Servant,

Mark

KidZone

We just completed the "First" series where we learned all about putting God first in every area of our lives. It was a great series and the kids learned a lot. We will soon begin our series for Lent that is all about the garden.



Four members of the children's ministry team went to a VBS workshop at Boston Avenue last Saturday. It was exciting and this year's VBS looks like it will be great. It's called Workshop of Wonders and is all about imagining and building with God. VBS will be sometime in July. We will have exact dates soon.

See you Sunday!

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR
FLC-Family Life Center**

Wednesday, February 26

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, February 27

11:00 a.m.-Needlers-Parlor
1:00 p.m.-Ruth Esther Circle-F. Hall
5:30 p.m.-FLC in use
7:00 p.m.-Faith Circle-Parlor

Friday, February 28

6:00 p.m.-FLC in use

Saturday, March 1

No Activities

Sunday, March 2

8:30 a.m.-Modern Worship; 11:00 a.m.-Classic Worship
10:00 a.m.-Sunday School
10:00 a.m.-Confirmation Meeting-F. Hall
1:00 p.m.-Youth Mentor Group
4:00 p.m.-Ice Cream & Cake Social-FLC

Monday, March 3

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

Tuesday, March 4

5:30 p.m.-UMW Executive Meeting-Parlor
6:30 p.m.-Cub Scouts-FLC
7:00 p.m.-Praise Team
7:00 p.m.-Al-Anon-Upstairs

Wednesday, March 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.-NO Chancel Ringers
6:30 p.m.-NOP Youth-FLC
6:30 p.m.-Ash Wednesday Service
Following Service-Chancel Choir

Thursday, March 6

5:30 p.m.-FLC in use

Friday, March 7

6:00 p.m.-FLC in use

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