

The Springs



December 18, 2013

Rev. Don Tabberer



"Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf." (1 Corinthians 10:17)

Holy Communion...This Holy Mystery

This week we continue our discussion of Holy Communion. Last time we said that communion is thanksgiving; it is remembrance; and it is a type of sacrifice.

Holy Communion is a means of receiving God's grace through the action of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8), whose work is described in John 14:26: *"But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you."* We call upon the Holy Spirit in the Great Thanksgiving: *"Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine."* We ask God to *"make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world..."* (UMH; page 10)

The idea of grace and the means of grace are vital to our Wesleyan theology. The Bible and our tradition teach us to believe we are sinners, constantly in need of divine grace. We believe that God is gracious and loving, always making available the grace we need. Grace is God's love toward us, God's free and undeserved gift. The grace of God is made available to us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ and works in our lives through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

While divine grace reaches us any time and in any way that God chooses, God has designated certain means or channels through which grace is most surely and immediately available. John Wesley said: *"By 'means of grace' I understand outward signs, words, or actions, ordained of God, and appointed for this end, to be the ordinary channels whereby he might convey to men [and women], preventing, justifying, or*

sanctifying grace" ("The Means of Grace," II.1). In the General Rules, Wesley listed these means of grace as, "The public worship of God; the ministry of the Word, either read or expounded; the Supper of the Lord; family and private prayer; searching the Scriptures; fasting or abstinence" (Book of Discipline, ¶ 103; page 74). These means are not to be understood as ways of earning salvation; they are, rather, ways to receive, live in, and grow in divine grace. The Wesleyan tradition has continued to emphasize the practice of these means of grace throughout our salvation process. If for no other reason, this alone makes receiving Holy Communion as often as possible a desirable thing to do.

Holy Communion also has to do with the end of history, the outcome of God's purpose for the world — *"Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again"*. We commune not only with the faithful who are physically present but with the saints of the past who join us in the sacrament. To participate is to receive a foretaste of the future, a pledge of heaven *"until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet"*. Christ himself looked forward to this occasion and promised the disciples, *"I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom"* (Matthew 26:29; Mark 14:25; Luke 22:18). When we eat and drink at the Table, we become partakers of the divine nature in this life and for life eternal (John 6:47-58; Revelation 3:20). We are anticipating the heavenly banquet celebrating God's victory over sin, evil, and death (Matthew 22:1-14; Revelation 19:9; 21:1-7). In the midst of the personal and systemic brokenness in which we live, we yearn for everlasting fellowship with Christ and ultimate fulfillment of the divine plan. Nourished by sacramental grace, we strive to be formed into the image of Christ and to be made instruments for transformation in the world.

***Expect God's grace today,
Pastor Don***



The recent cancellation of services due to weather suggests that we need to remind ourselves of how this information is disseminated. Thankfully,

we rarely have the need to cancel worship services for bad weather. However, when we do we want you to hear about it before you make the drive to church. Notice of closing or postponements will be posted in the following ways:

- Message on the church telephone answering service;
- Notices sent to TV Channels 2, 8, and 23 (Channel 6 does not report church closings);
- Notices posted on our website, Facebook, and Twitter accounts;
- Message sent through our prayer chain;
- Word-of-mouth...When you hear about a closing, please contact people you know to be sure they also get the message; let's look out for each other.

The decision to close is never an easy one to make and is often made in advance so that we can get the message out. This may mean that we choose to close and later find out it was not necessary. It is still better to be safe than sorry. Our location is sometimes challenging to access and we do not want anyone to get hurt trying to cross icy streets from our parking areas. The offices may close due to inclement weather. This is for the safety of people coming into the office during the week. However, if you need to contact us you should call to see if someone may have come in or you can leave a message; we try to check messages regularly. You may also send email and we can retrieve those from home. Many of you also have our cell phone numbers to use in case of emergency.

We want everyone to be safe this winter and we hope you understand we are doing our best to meet everyone's needs. If you ever have any doubt about whether to venture out in bad weather, please err on the side of caution and do not put yourself at risk.

We want you here – IF you can get here safely. Otherwise, we prefer that you are safe.

This week someone suggested we pass the offering plate twice at our next service. We probably won't do that, but we do want to remind you that ministry continues no matter the weather and your tithes and offerings are needed to keep ministry going. Please make up what is missed on a snow day at your next opportunity. Thank you and be blessed!

SOMEONE'S PRAYINGLet us pray for the safety for those who are traveling to be "Home" or with loved ones for Christmas. But let us also pray for those who have no home or a loved one to go home to. Let us pray for those who are too far away from home to make the trip. Especially, let us pray for those who are making the sacrifice so far away from their families to keep us safe. Let us pray for those who do not know the love, comfort and peace that our Savior gives us, no matter where we are. Let us pray for our church that we may be bold in sharing the love of Jesus Christ with others who might not know Him. You know the rest of the story. There is much to be in prayer for. LET US PRAY. Merry Christmas to all. Virginia

Prayer Chain (e-mail)

You may have dropped off Ellie's computer during her recent crash! If you have not received a prayer chain lately or a confirmation note from Ellie, please e-mail her letting her know you want to be added again. Also, if you are interested in being on the prayer chain e-mail list, let Ellie know: ecostola@cox.net



Newsletter Changes

We are changing the deadline for newsletter articles. All articles must be submitted to Tracey by 11 a.m. on the Monday of the newsletter week.

Also, we will have NO NEWSLETTER the week of December 30.

The Church Office is closed after Christmas, December 26-31. In case of **EMEGENCY** you may contact
Pastor Don at 918-932-0166
Or
Alan Parker at 918-557-9278.

What is \$1 a day?



or \$7 towards apportionments

A percentage of apportionment money goes to the **Ministerial Education Fund**. One of the beneficiaries is Saint Paul School of Theology at Oklahoma City University. Pastors benefit from having a campus close by.



January 6, 2014

10 am-Exercise to Music
7 pm-Centennial Meeting-Parlor
7 pm-Boy Scouts-FLC

January 7, 2014

6:30 pm-Cub Scouts-FLC
7 pm-Praise Team
7 pm-Al-Anon-Upstairs

January 8, 2014

7:30 am-Men's Breakfast-Crescent Café
10 am-Exercise to Music-FLC
3:30 pm-Art Class-F. Hall
6 pm-Chancel Ringers
6:30 pm-Youth
7 pm-Chancel Choir

January 9, 2014

1st day of Israel Trip
11 am-Needlers
5:30 pm-FLC in use
7 pm-Stewardship Meeting

January 10, 2014

3:30 pm-Art Classes-F. Hall

January 11, 2014

10 am-Art Classes-F. Hall
10 am-FLC in use

January 12, 2014

8:30 am-Modern Worship
10 am-Sunday School
11 am-Classic Worship
3 pm-Blue Devil Basketball-FLC

January 13, 2014

10 am-Exercise to Music-FLC
7 pm-Boy Scouts-FLC

January 14, 2014

6:30 pm-Cub Scouts-FLC
7 pm-Praise Team
7 pm-Al-Anon-Upstairs

Next Newsletter is the week of January 13, 2014. All articles are due at 11 am on Monday, January 13th.

Calendar

January 1-Offices Closed—Happy New Year!

January 2, 2014—Offices Re-open

5:30 p.m.-FLC in use

January 3, 2014

No Activities

January 4, 2014

10 am-FLC in use

January 5, 2014

8:30 am-Modern Worship
10 am-Sunday School
11 am-Classic Worship
1 pm-Youth Mentor Group
3 pm-Blue Devil Basketball-FLC



Tuesday, December 24, 2014

***5:00pm – Candlelight Communion Service featuring our
Children’s Department and
“The Christmas Shoppe”**

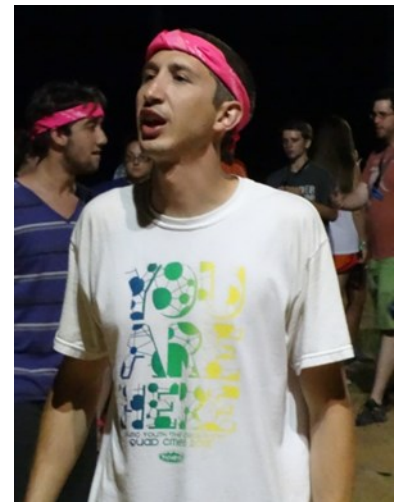
***9:00pm – Candlelight Communion Service featuring Carols and Scripture
*Please Join Us!***

Farewell to Graeme Cracker!

I cannot let this opportunity pass as the end of Graeme’s tenure at SSUMC draws painfully close. I must take a moment to publicly say “farewell.” I choose that word carefully because I know we will continue to be colleagues and we will work together in ministry for many years to come; it will simply be in different ways. Graeme has been here for three and a half years – *longer than me!* He has been an unimaginable blessing to our youth program and a huge partner in ministry for me. I cannot deny that he has changed my perspective in many ways and I sincerely respect and admire him for his call to ministry. He is sometimes a challenge, but almost always a delight and I will miss him each day... “Buenos!”... “Tacos!”

Graeme is moving forward to a new and exciting phase of his journey with Jesus and I could not be happier for him. He will continue to bless the youth of Oklahoma for many years to come as his ministry grows and matures. I look forward to working with him on the Dayspring design team and seeing him at camp next summer. He will continue to be part of the Tulsa District and we will undoubtedly encounter each other from time to time. It is part of the way we Methodists “do church” to see ministry colleagues come and go through the years. The one certainty is that we remain colleagues and friends no matter where we go. I am proud to be able to call Graeme my friend and colleague.

Over the next couple weeks all of us will need to find our own ways to say farewell and wish Graeme and Jetonne *bonne chance*. They richly deserve all the good things God has planned for them and, though I will miss them, I can only say: **“Tulaliloo ti amo! Poopaye!”**



A Great Big THANK YOU!

Our church is amazing! Thank you so much for your generous support of our **Angel Tree Project**. You provided gifts and groceries for two very deserving families in Sand Springs. Because of you these families will have a very Merry Christmas that they would not have had. You also provided gifts for six children of incarcerated parents. This program went through some of our Sunday school classes and enabled us to buy a gift on behalf of the parent and deliver it to the child’s caregiver so they can open it on Christmas morning. My guess is that many of you have been involved in other forms of generosity this Advent Season and I pray that each time you have shared the love of Jesus with another that you have felt his love yourself. **THANK YOU** again for being so generous this season.

Linda Tabberer, Angel Tree Coordinator



Lay Servant Ministries

"Your life may be the only Bible
some people ever read."

"As lay servants care, lead, and com-
municate,

they encourage, equip, and support others for deeper
commitment to Christ and to faithful discipleship."

The United Methodist Church has always focused on the ministries of the laity and encouraged *"the priesthood of all believers"* (1 Peter 2:5-9). One of the ways we empower lay persons to be in ministry is through a program called **Lay Servant Ministries**. This program is designed to encourage and train those persons who have heard a call to servant ministry involving leadership, pastoral care, or communication. Classes are offered each year to help each Lay Servant learn more about what God is calling them to do and to give them tools to help with their ministry. Lay Servants may lead small group studies, hold leadership positions in the church, or make hospital and home visitations. Their roles are only limited by their desire to serve Jesus and the needs of their home church. Currently, our church has voted to approve two Lay Servants for ministry within our congregation.

Don Cole has been a member of our church family since March of 2010. His spiritual journey has included online Bible study courses, participation in the Pastor's Bible Study group, and serving on the 2012 adult mission team. Don has successfully completed the Basic Lay Servant training class and several courses offered as part of Seminary Light at Oklahoma City University. He has served as a volunteer with our youth program and traveled with the youth to summer camp. Don has now been

asked to serve in the role of class facilitator for the Harmony Class beginning in January 2014. Don was approved for service by our Annual Charge Conference for 2013 and again for 2014.

Amy Miller has been a member of our church family since June of 1995. Amy has served in many leadership roles for our church over the years. She is currently in her second year as Lay Leader, which essentially means that she has some role to play in nearly every aspect of church life. She serves on most leadership committees within the church and she serves as a link between the congregation and all other church leaders, including the pastor. Amy also serves as the chairperson of our Evangelism Ministry Team; she teaches the 5th & 6th Grade class – **Encounter**; and she leads our Confirmation Education program. As a volunteer, Amy is involved in many activities, including Vacation Bible School, Helping Hands Missions, and the 2nd Monday Book Club. Amy was approved for service by our Annual Charge Conference for 2014 after completing her first Basic Lay Servant training class in 2013.

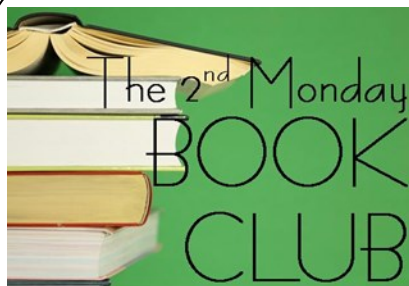
We congratulate these two dedicated volunteers and welcome their ministries to our church. If you are hearing a call to Lay Servant Ministry and would like further information about this program, please contact Pastor Don at 918-245-5955. The next training session for the Tulsa District will be:

Lay Servant Training – Basic and two Advanced Lay
Speaking

"Accountable Discipleship" & "Dancing with Words"

Times will be Friday 6-9 p. m. and Saturday 9 a.m.- 5 p.m.

April 25-26, 2014 at Memorial Drive UMC



**The 2nd Monday Book Club
meets the 2nd Monday of the month at
6:15PM in the Church Parlor. Join this
fun and casual group for interesting
reading and lively discussion**

Sunday Lists

Sunday Volunteers—December 22

Visitors Center & Coffee-Searchers

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

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

Young Disciples Lesson-8:30a.m.-Janet Parker

Young Disciples Lesson-11:00 a.m.-Janet Parker

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

Child. Church-11:00 a.m.-Susie & Amanda

Counters-Betty or Howard Smith & Karen Wilder

Sunday Volunteers—December 29

Visitors Center & Coffee-Searchers

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.-Katherine & Julie

Child. Church-11:00 a.m.-Katherine & Julie

Counters-Sondra Bogert & Dick Ford

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, Patti Pafford

Acknowledgements

Thank You...

Just wanted to say thanks so much to all the workers and volunteers for the wonderful Thanksgiving dinner. This is the first time I have asked to have one delivered but appreciated it sooo much. Due to multiple health issues, I was unable to prepare a meal. It was greatly appreciated. God bless you all.

Pauline Hanigar

Dear Friends...

Such a great and sweet deed you did for us. The Thanksgiving dinner that Sam delivered and others put together was wonderful! It really isn't bad growing older when the younger ones are thoughtful and kind. I hope and pray that the generation younger than you will be equally kind. Our blessings are so many! God is truly good.

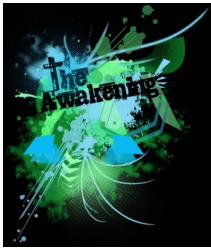
With love, appreciation and thanksgiving, Thank you.

Merle & Winona Eichenfeld

Thank You...

Thank you for all the thoughtful ways you give from the heart. God Bless You.

Jody, Joyce, Cheril, Jody, Pat, Sue Earlene, the Bryants, and Earl Harvard-thank you for the dinners. It was a blessing.



Final Crumbs From The Cracker

News:

To The Church:

Thank you so much for being so supportive, and encouraging during our time at Sand Springs United Methodist Church. You all have

one of the most compassionate and welcoming hearts that any church could have! Whether you were a parent helping with an event, a Sunday school class making a meal for Wednesday night, or a contributor to our youth missions; whatever role might have been... it was always filled with love and support! Thank you for making our jobs easy, because of the great crowd of support. Our students crave your participation and involvement in their lives! Continue to invest in them, leave that legacy that is going to change the world for Christ! Thank you for allowing us to begin our ministry here. We will miss each one of you!

To The Youth Volunteers:

Or should I say to the Avengers in the church! Words cannot express my thankfulness to you all! Your team is going to continue to change the world for Christ, know how I know this? Because each one of you is **Superhero!** You all have been such a blessing to partner in ministry with! Our student's lives will never be the same because of the sacrifice and blessings that you have invested into them. Thank you for being so supportive! God sees your service to our students and HE is smiling down on each one of you! God established "The Awakening" student ministry at Sand Springs United Methodist Church in September 2010, but he is not done! Our prayer is that God would bring in a student leader that can take HIS student ministry to a whole new level with you all, and make more disciples for Christ! Continue to serve, continue to be a blessing, and continue to be blessed as you see Christ work in our student's hearts! Thank you so much for your service to Christ and His church. You all are incredible leaders!

To The Students:

To the special place in my heart, our students! Thank you for allowing me to come into your lives and challenge, encourage, and stretch your faith in Christ! Each one of you holds a special place in my heart, and you will forever. Know that God is not done here! He is just getting started! Just as God used Moses to lead the Israelites out of bondage in Egypt... God also used Joshua to lead those people out of the desert and into the promise land... God is ready to lead you all into the promise land as a student ministry! I believe with all my heart that He is going to bring you all a leader that is going to do bigger and greater things for God in your lives! Thank you for a very fun and exciting 3 ½ years of ministry, we will cherish all of the memories deep in our hearts forever! We have had a blast getting to know each one of you and look forward to one day hearing how each of you are changing the world for Christ! We love you and we will miss you!

KidZone News

We want to let everyone know that the Christmas program practice is Saturday from 9:30am-12pm. The children will present their program at 6:00 on Sunday, December 22.

The children will also be "participating" in the 5:00pm Christmas Eve service this year. If you have questions please see Ms. Debbie or Ms. Marty.

Speaking of the Christmas Eve service, many thanks to Darrell and Winnie Mansfield, Billie and Bob Schmidt for making sugar cookies for us-12 dozen!! Darrell and Bob were in charge of quality control while Winnie and Billie rolled and baked the cookies. We hear Darrell and Bob enjoyed their job!

This Sunday the children will be frosting the cookies so they can give them away at the 5pm service on Christmas Eve. We have missed several of you the past few weeks. We hope to see you soon!



Music Ministry Musings

In the sanctuary on Sunday, December 22nd at 6:00 pm the music ministry will present "A Christmas Celebration." The evening combines the Christmas music program for the Praise Team and Youth Praise Team with the Kingdom Kids presentation of "The Perfect Gift." The kids' program was supposed to take place on December 8th but was postponed due to the bad weather. You won't want to miss this opportunity to get two Christmas shows for the price of one (free!!) Don't worry; the whole program should only be about an hour and fifteen minutes or so. Come jump into the Christmas spirit and find Christ at the center.

Following the program you are invited to a "Birthday Party for Jesus" in the Fellowship Hall. This will also be a farewell party for Graeme and Jetonne Collett.

Kingdom Kids

Please remember, Saturday, December 21 at 9:30 a.m. you will meet in the Sanctuary for costume prep. Then at 10:00 a.m. you will have a Dress Rehearsal. After rehearsal, at 11:30 a.m. we will enjoy pizza together. Sunday, December 22 at 5:30 p.m. we will meet in the Choir Room for warm ups. After that, we will present our Christmas Program at 6:00 p.m. followed by a Birthday Party for Jesus. Looking forward to seeing all of you!!!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

FLC-Family Life Center

Wednesday, December 18

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, December 19

12:30 p.m.-Ruth Esther Circle at Crescent Café-Spouses/Guests welcome
3:30 p.m.-Art Class-F. Hall
5:30 p.m.-FLC in use

Friday, December 20-No Activities

Saturday, December 21

9:30 a.m.-Kingdom Kids Dress Rehearsal
10:00 a.m.-FLC in use
5:00 p.m.-F. Hall in use by Eldin Fisher Family

Sunday, December 22

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

1:15 p.m.-Finance Meeting

3:00 p.m.-Blue Devil Basketball Practice-FLC

6:00 p.m.-Christmas Music Program-Children, Youth, Praise Team

Monday, December 23

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

Tuesday, December 24-Offices Closed

FLC in use

Wednesday, December 25-Offices Closed-Merry Christmas!

Offices are closed the week between Christmas and New Year. We will return to the office Thursday, January 2nd, 2014.

Love and Blessings to all of you in the remaining year and new year!

Merry Christmas from the Staff

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