



The Springs

Rev. Don Tabberer

August 3, 2011



“And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descend-

ing like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, ‘*This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.*’” (Matthew 3:16-17, NRSV)

A couple of years ago I read a wonderful book by Henri J.M. Nouwen called, **“Life of the Beloved.”** (I highly recommend this book to anyone who wants to learn more about living a spiritual life in our secular world. If you want to borrow my copy, just ask.) This isn’t a new book; it was originally printed in 1992. It is a book that was written to respond to questions from some non-Christian friends who wanted to know how Nouwen might explain his faith to those who most needed to hear – people who did not believe in Jesus Christ. In the end, though, the book did more to speak to those who already believe than it did to satisfy his intended audience. Nouwen reminds us that we also are God’s beloved children. He says, “*Yes, there is that voice, the voice that speaks from above and from within and that whispers softly or declares loudly: ‘You are my Beloved, on whom my favor rests.’ It certainly is not easy to hear that voice in a world filled with voices that shout: ‘You are no good, you are ugly; you are worthless; you are despicable, you are nobody.’*” (30-31)

Living a life of spirit-filled faithfulness to God is not easy in a secular world that constantly pulls us away from God and tries desperately to convince us that we are nothing unless we have the “right” job, the “right” clothes, the “right” hairstyle, weight, car, home, etc., ad nauseum. The truth is: we **are** God’s beloved; we are not subject to the judgments of this world – we are beloved by God and that’s all that really matters. This is a wonderful truth to keep at the forefront of your mind every day. Only God’s opinion matters – not the opinion of advertisers in the media or your neighbors down the road. The negative voices we hear in our culture are so

loud and so persuasive that it’s really easy to believe them. But listening to these voices leads us down a path of self-criticism, self-loathing, and self-rejection. We can so easily fall into the trap of believing what the world tells us that we risk forgetting the truth that God offers us. The clamor of our culture can drown out the still, small voice of God telling us we are beloved. Once we really hear this voice of God telling us that we are beloved, we want to hear more...we want to know more...we want to be more as a beloved child of God.

This is a message we must dare to claim and share with others. The reality of our world is that *“many children never feel really welcomed in the world. Beneath their nervous smiles, there is often the question: ‘Am I really wanted?’...Our world is full of people who question whether it would have been better had they not been born. When we do not feel loved by those who gave us life, we often suffer our whole life long...”* (57) We cannot allow the people of this world to convince us that anyone is without value. We cannot give in to a culture that manipulates, controls, and destroys the true beauty of a soul created by God and loved by God. We are God’s beloved and we must let others know that they too are beloved by God.

As more people become aware of this truth, divisions will close and wounds will be healed. *“The Spirit of God, the Spirit that calls us the Beloved, is the Spirit that unites and makes whole. There is no clearer way to discern the presence of God’s Spirit than to identify the moments of unification, healing, restoration, and reconciliation. Wherever the Spirit works, divisions vanish and inner as well as outer unity manifests itself.”* (135)

Only God has the power to bring people together and to bridge the gaps that divide us. Only we have the ability to open our hearts to hear God’s truth and share it with everyone we meet. This combination of God’s power and our hearing is an awesome force in the world to say to someone, **“You are the Beloved of God and God loves you and wants to be in your life today.”** Be God’s Beloved today.

*God bless,
Pastor Don*

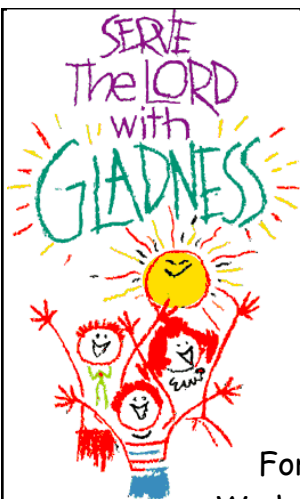
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Men's Breakfast

The men of the church meet every Wednesday at 7:30 a.m. at Crescent Café.



KidZone News

VBS was a great success! With just a few days to organize it all, Marty, Debbie and their VBS crew did a great job getting VBS ready at the FLC. It wasn't a perfect situation, but we made it work and the kids had a great time. Thank you to all the volunteers. We could never do it without you!

For all the kids...join us for Sunday School in August. We have some fun things planned as we looked forward to starting school.

See you Sunday!

A Real Page Turner.....

2nd Monday Book Club meets again on August 8 at 6:15pm at the church. If you love to read, we'd love to have you. Invite a friend, too!

Bible Study

Ladies, if you are interested in a short-term (11 weeks) Bible study this fall please give Amy Miller a call at 245-3076. If there is enough interest we will start sometime in September.

A Busy Couple of Weeks

Here is a schedule of the next couple of weeks: Choir & Bells are back to rehearsal this week as Alan is back in the office on Wednesday the 3rd. Men's & Women's breakfast is Wednesday, August 3rd at 7:30 a.m. at Crescent Café. There is a Family Life Center Oversight Committee Meeting Thursday, August 4 at 6:30 p.m. at the Family Life Center. The youth are going to Pawnee this Fri-

day the 5th at 11 a.m. Communion is this Sunday the 7th of August as well as Council On Ministries at 2:30 p.m. and Church Council at 4 p.m. Don will be out of the office on the 8th of August and the 2nd Monday Book Club meets again on the 8th at 6:15 p.m. Stewardship Meeting is on Tuesday, August 9th at 7 p.m. UMW Salad Supper is Thursday, August 11 at 6:30 p.m. at the Family Life Center to hear about the School Of Missions. Evangelism meets at 7 p.m. on August 11th. Finally, the Missions Committee will be at Restore Hope on August 13th from 9 a.m.-noon.

Dinners For 8 Plus

Come meet us at Napoli's on Sunday, August 14th after church. Everyone is invited!

Trustees Meeting

Please remember you have a very important meeting on Sunday, August 14 at 1 p.m. Please make every effort to attend.

Sunday Lists

Sunday Volunteers August 7

Welcome Center

Harmony

Head Ushers

Jim Shaw

Lay Reader

Virginia Baldrige

Children's Moment

Cathy Gifford

Children's Church

No Children's Church

Counters

Janie Moore & Kent Warkentin

Youth Dinner for Wednesday, August 3

Discovery/Crossroads

Sunday Volunteers August 14

Welcome Center

Harmony

Head Usher

Jim Shaw

Lay Reader

Kent & Jami Warkentin

Children's Moment

Kristen Henry

Children's Church

Katherine, Julie Ferguson & Julia Henry

Counters

Diana Pond & Jack Vest

Youth Dinner for Wednesday, August 10

TNT

Please Keep In Prayer

Walter Speed, Harold Hilgendorf, Don Baldrige, Wilbur Williams, Mel & Norma Jones, Ryder Herring, Thelma Bradshaw, Gene Watson, Bob Horn, Virginia Vice, Ruth Weaver, Jo Nan Allen, Jim Bostwick, Barbara McClintock, Jewel & Wilbur Williams, Martha Scudder, Max Schuermann, Jennifer Nerren

Acknowledgements & Information



We Offer Our Sympathy...

We've Lost a Friend

To the family of Vera Nell Boatman who passed away August 1st. Our prayers are with you all!

Junkets By Jill

Sue Wiedemann's friend is heading up a trip to Mount Rushmore & the Black Hills of South Dakota. It is in the last stages of getting signed up but she wanted to be sure you had the opportunity to check it out. Tracey has information in the office if you are interested.

Worth Repeating!

The Heart of a Volunteer is not measured by size, but by the depth of the commitment to make a difference in the lives of others. *DeAnn Hollis*

(We are so thankful for volunteers at SSUMC! You all make such a difference and we appreciate you!)



served right on time! Trish House even got hers charred just the way she likes them. And - no sweat!

Thank you, Lord, for those not-so-little miracles. Also, we give thanks to God for our wonderful youth and children's volunteers who put on a fantastic Bible School, giving apx. 75 children an opportunity to know Jesus better.

UMW School Of Missions

Ladies, mark your calendar for August 11 at 6:30 p.m. at the Family Life Center for a Salad & Dessert Dinner.

All Circle Members and women interested in UMW activities, please plan on attending to hear about this years School of Missions with Louise Reed speaking about the class she took called "Coming Out on the Side of Grace: Forgiveness & Reconciliation." Also, Tim & Shelia Alex on their class, "Joy to the World Mission in the Age of Global Christianity." Special guest is Anna Marie Boyce, Dean of School of Missions, who will be speaking about Haiti. Circle Members, please bring your favorite salad. The executive committee is providing the desserts.

SOMEONE'S PRAYING, LORD.....

Don't you just love God's little miracles? Several were experienced at Bible School last week, but the most exciting one for Doug Baldrige was the miracle of the hot dog cooker! He was assigned the job of cooking 300 wieners for the closing program Thursday night. He was really dreading firing up the grill in 100 plus weather. When it was forecast 107, there was no way. His son, Mike, just happened to ask him to lunch (at Dean's Coney Island that day.) Doug was telling him about his wiener dilemma. It just so happened Mike had recently obtained an electric wiener rotisserie. Like brand new, it cooked 40 wieners at a time for about 10 minutes each. 300 delicious wieners were ready to be



Have You Lost Your Mind?!

See that tiny looking little person up there at the ceiling in the FLC? That is Alex Stockard putting in the basket ball goals at the Family Life Center. We thank you so much Alex. We are pretty sure none of us would want to volunteer for that job!

"Mission Morsels"

SSUMC's next mission project is set for August 13th from 9 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at Restore Hope Ministries (RHM) - 2960 Charles Page Blvd. We will be helping with replenishing, sorting, and packing school supplies to assist families in financial need. Please join us! We could use lots of helping hands! There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex and at the Family Life Center for volunteers or you may contact Jami Warkentin at 918.260.6574 or at gopokes93@gmail.com.

Also, if you can donate money or school supplies, to help with this very worthy cause, it would be appreciated! We will have boxes in the Narthex and at the Family Life Center for collection of the school supplies. Below is a list of items needed. I asked if there were any items they recommend we get and Sandy Milner said any of the writing supplies highlighted in red below would be great. Also, college ruled spiral notebooks and college ruled loose leaf notebook paper often get overlooked and must be purchased by RHM.

1-1/2" 3-Ring Binders

12" Ruler with Centimeters

Notebook Paper - wide & college

5" Blunt & Pointed tip Scissors

4 oz Bottle of White Glue

Ink Pens (blue, black, & red)

Broad Line Washable Markers

Compass (safety point)

Crayons (24 count)

Glue Sticks

Graph Paper

Large Zipper Pencil Bags

No.2 Pencils

3" x 5" Ruled Index Cards

Pink Erasers

Plastic Pencil Boxes

Pocket Folders with Brads

Primary Pencils with erasers

Protractors

Red Lead Checking Pencils

Set of 12 Colored Pencils

Spiral Notebooks -wide & college

Set of 8 Watercolors

Ziploc Bags (1gallon and quart size)

Thanks, SSUMC, for assisting those in need!

Jami Warkentin

Building Campaign

It was only a year ago in August 2010 that our church embarked on a three-year campaign to raise funds to build our Family Life Center. Many of you made generous pledges toward this project. As we come to the first anniversary of the campaign, it is important that we remember our commitment to this effort and continue to make contributions toward fulfilling our pledges. It is also important that we inform our new members and friends of what we are trying to do and how they have an opportunity to participate.

Our church has made the decision to build new facilities at our new location on the south side of Sand Springs. Construction of the Family Life Center is now nearly complete and we need to continue to move forward with the next phase of our plan. Obviously, construction projects are very costly and we all need to participate in this important aspect of our ministry. The new facilities will enable us to reach many more people from a modern facility that offers more space and more parking. This project took many years to formulate and there were lots of hurdles along the way. We now have a plan that will work and we all need to stand behind this plan and help it become a reality. This means that we all need to make some sacrifices. Giving to our building campaign cannot take the place of regular tithes and offerings that go to fund our ministries. Our new building must be paid for through sacrificial giving that goes beyond what you normally contribute. When the project is complete, we will all benefit from what we have accomplished and our mission to the community will grow and thrive as well. Thank you.

VBS

What an amazing VBS we had this year. I am sure I am joined by many when I say THANK YOU to Marty & Debbie and all the volunteers. My babies LOVED it!

-Tracey G.

Crumbs From The Cracker

Special Thanks:

- Thank you to Katharine and Charlene Reeves and Jim and Vi McAllister for taking our youth down to Camp Egan this year! Your service is greatly appreciated!
- Thank you to our children's team, volunteer speakers, actor/actresses, youth, adults etc. who helped out with VBS. You all are amazing and are being the hands and feet of Christ to this community through Children's ministry! Keep up the great work!
- Thank you to Stan Gomez and Megan Chism for printing and designing our new series posters they look awesome!!!!

News:

Our youth had another great experience at Camp Egan this summer! We had 10 youth attend a Jr. & Sr. high combined camp! This year's camp theme was "Altering your life from the inside out" and no I did not spell altar wrong J, it was worded that way for the youth to process bringing an offering to God and being an altar for Christ to work through and encounter God! The topics they covered throughout the week were "Radical Hospitality", "Passionate Worship", "Prayer", and "Risk Taking Mission". Each one of these nights was added with a great worship experience brought to the students from the OU Wesley Foundation band! It was a great experience for each of our youth as they worshiped and encountered God with fellow students from the Tulsa district! If you bump into one of our youth who went to camp, ask them about their experience this summer! Here is the list of campers below:

Camp Peeps: Brooke Herndon, Abby Walters, Julia Henry, Autumn Harjo, Julie Ferguson, Megan Chism, Amanda Honeycutt, Hunter Chism, Jason Cooper, Daniel Ferguson



Weekly Youth Topics:

The youth have had a few weeks off from normal Wednesday night meetings due to summer camp and VBS, but this week we are starting our new series ***“Seeds Trees Fruits.”*** This is going to be a great series that will challenge our youth to GROW in God! We will be looking at multiple passages that Jesus spoke about “Seeds Trees and Fruits” in hopes to help our youth maintain and develop their Spiritual gardens for Christ!



Fun Fact: “The most productive day of the workweek is Tuesday.”

Upcoming Dates:

- August 2nd Youth Small groups 6pm-8pm
- August 3rd Week 1 “Seeds Trees Fruits”
- August 5th Pawnee Bathhouse Water Day! (Meet @ SSUMC @ 11am, will return around 5:30ish)
- August 9th Small Groups 6pm-8pm
- August 10th Week 2 “Seeds Trees Fruit”
- August 14th Small Group 6pm-8pm
- August 17th Week 3 “Seeds Trees Fruits” Guest Speaker: Pastor Don
- August 25th Mission Movie and Picture Testimony 6:30pm-9:00pm (Pop-corn and Drinks)

(If you are interested in being apart of any of these upcoming events please do not hesitate to call me at 918-245-5955, or email me at gcollett@sandspringsumc.org)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

CP=Childcare Provide ~ FLC-Family Life Center

Wednesday, August 3

7:30 a.m.-M/W Breakfast—Crescent Café

10:00 a.m.-Exercise to Music-FLC

6:00 p.m.-JH Youth

7:00 p.m.-Dinner/Praise & Worship

8:00 p.m.-SH Youth

6:00 p.m.-Chancel Ringers

7:00 p.m.-Chancel Choir

Thursday, August 4

6:30 p.m.-FLC Oversight Committee Meeting-FLC

4:15 & 5:30 p.m.-Weight Watchers

6:30 p.m.-Cub Scouts Troop 601-Caleb House

Friday, August 5

11:00 a.m.-Youth to Pawnee

12:00 p.m.-Weight Watchers

Saturday, August 6-No Activities

Sunday, August 7-Communion

9:00 a.m.-Sunday School

10:30 p.m.-Blended Worship-FLC

11:45 a.m.-Praise Team Practice

2:30 p.m.-COM

4:00-Church Council

Monday, August 8

10:00 a.m.-Exercise to Music-FLC

6:15 p.m.-2nd Monday Book Club

7:00 p.m.-Boy Scouts 101

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