



The Springs

Rev. Don Tabberer

August 17, 2011



.....
"The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, 'If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.'" (Exodus 16:2-3, NRSV)

Dear friends in Christ,

At a recent Tulsa District gathering our new District Superintendent, Dan Peil, shared his thoughts about the state of the church and asked us to reflect on this Old Testament lesson. I want to take this time to talk a bit about what Dan said and how it relates to our faith community. There has been a lot of talk in recent years about how "the church" is in a wilderness period. Membership is declining, attendance is down, and giving is off. There are lots of opinions about why this is happening and even more on how we go about fixing the problem. You see this is a problem shared throughout the country across all mainline denominations. There just seems to be a move by many to seek their spiritual food outside the walls of "organized religion." Many people in our mainline churches bemoan this trend and cry out that everything was great back in the "good old days" when church was the center of community life and Sunday was family day and everybody gathered at church in the morning, then around the table for lunch, and then back at church in the evening, every Sunday without fail. Back then, they tell us, society was better off, everything was simpler, there was less crime and our families were stronger. If we could just go back all our problems would be solved and our churches would be healthier.

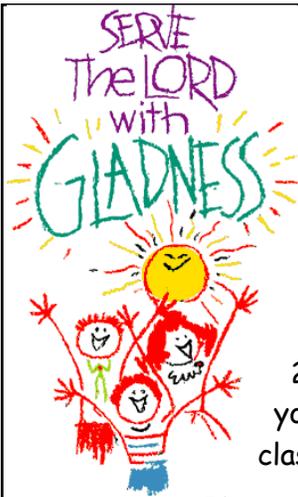
This sounds a bit like the Israelites wandering in the wilderness. If only they had never rebelled against Pharaoh; if only they had never left slavery in Egypt; at least they would have had a place to sleep and something to eat. We need to listen to what God had in mind for those whining Israelites. God told Moses that he would rain bread from heaven and the people should gather only what they need for a day. "In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not." (Ex 16:4) The story continues as God provides and the people complain. Ultimately, Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.'" And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of

the Lord appeared in the cloud. (Ex. 16:9-11)

Being the church and fulfilling our mission as disciples is not about going back to the way things used to be, or doing things the same way we've always done, or sitting around complaining about how bad things are. Nothing in our world is about keeping things the same or going back to those good old days. That's not the way this world works and it's not the way God's world works. God is always moving forward leading us toward the divine vision of what the world should be. God has always called us to follow; we hear that command in both the Old and New Testament. The problem seems to be that God is out there on the horizon and we just can't seem to keep up. We continue to cling to the comfortable and the familiar while God is calling us out to the challenging and the difficult. We think in terms of human economics where resources are scarce and we need to hoard what we have like the servant who took his master's money and buried in the ground for fear of losing it and getting into trouble. God calls us to take what we've been given and use it, invest it, plant it, and risk it so that God's economy can multiply it and make it fruitful. Like the Israelites, we are required to make difficult choices as we seek to draw near to the Lord and follow God's leading through the wilderness. Sometimes these choices will be costly; they will be emotional; they will involve changing our perspectives and our priorities. Often the choices we must make will cause disagreement. Nonetheless these difficult choices must be made to enable the whole church to serve God's mission.

When we talk to people who have left the church or never even tried the church we often hear complaints about what the church represents, about how behind-the-times the church is, or how exclusive the church "club" is. It seems to me that we could go a long way toward addressing these complaints if we had the courage to move forward with God instead of clinging to the past and wondering why things can't stay the same. No organization can survive unless it keeps moving; the church is no exception. God has been moving forward since the beginning of time urging Creation to grow and change and adapt. God is constantly calling us to keep up. I pray that we will all "draw near to the Lord," and be able to discern how we might better respond to the leading God offers to each of us.

In Jesus' name,
Pastor Don



KidZone News

It's hard to believe that summer is over. Some schools have already started and others will be starting in the next few days. We pray that all our children and teachers have a blessed school year.

We have some great news! We collected \$117 for Society of St. Andres. Isn't that awesome? That equals 2340 lbs of potatoes to help feed people in need. Thank you to the children and adults, especially the Harmony class, for helping us with this project.

Blessed are the flexible! Thank you to all the parents and children for your patience and creativity while we aren't able to have Children's Church at the FLC. As soon as the kitchen is finished, we will be able to have children's church again. See You Sunday!



Ladies...if you are interested in a short term (11 weeks) Bible Study for Women, please contact Amy Miller at 245-3076. The title of the study is *Living Beyond Yourself*. We will start sometime in September.

Youth Family Movie Night

The youth are sponsoring another Movie Night open to the whole congregation/community. It will be at the FLC Thursday, August 25th from 6:30 to 9 p.m. The movie is "End of the Spear." Drinks & Popcorn will be available for \$1-all proceeds going to future youth missions.

Evangelism Committee

The Evangelism Committee is having a special meeting on Thursday, August 18th at 7 p.m. in the Parlor. We will be planning Rally Day. Please come and bring ideas.

Cornerstone Hospice

We are dedicated to helping make the end of life a time filled with comfort and kindness. *Direct Care Volunteers* visit patients and caregivers in their home or nursing facilities. *Indirect Care Volunteers* work in the office doing a variety of activities. We only ask for a 2 hour commitment each month. You can do more or less depending on your schedule. Make a difference in someone's life.

Be a part of your community.

Cornerstone Hospice

10816 E. Newton St.

Suite 117

Tulsa, OK 74116

918-641-5192

RSVP for training

Committee Members

No matter how large or small an organization, committees play an integral part in it's development. We are no exception. We have committees that represent this congregation, and the members of those committees were chosen with consideration to gifts and with fervent prayer. If you accepted a nomination, you represent the rest of us and we rely on you to attend meetings and make decisions that are important in the growth of our church. We thank you for taking your position seriously and for knowing how important your gifts are in the life of SSUMC. The Nominations Committee will be meeting soon so please be in prayer for them as they begin the process of choosing our leadership for 2012.

Sunday Lists

Sunday Volunteers August 21

Welcome Center

Harmony

Head Ushers

Jim Shaw

Lay Reader

Terrie Baker

Children's Moment

Jami Warkentin

Children's Church

Debbie & Marty, Jason C. & Cayleigh S.

Counters

Betty or Howard Smith & Gary Dobbs

Youth Dinner for Wednesday, *August 17*

CIA/Pathfinders

Sunday Volunteers August 28

Welcome Center

Harmony

Head Usher

Jim Shaw

Lay Reader

Barbara Fisher

Children's Moment

Amy Miller

Children's Church

Amy & Trish, Lauren M., Anna d.

Counters

Sondra Bogert & Dick Ford

Youth Dinner for Wednesday, *August 24*

Noah

Please Keep In Prayer

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

Acknowledgements & Information



We Offer Our Sympathy...

We've Lost a Friend

To the family & friends of Bob Horn who passed away August 5th. You are all in our prayers.

Thank You!

June Horn would like to thank everyone for the love, support, food, hugs and so much more. You made this transition for me so much more bearable. ...June Horn

Mission Morsels

We had a very successful mission project partnering with Restore Hope. Thank you to everyone who donated money, supplies, time, and talent. We packed more than 300 boxes of school supplies for Tulsa area children on Saturday, August 13th. We worked diligently and had a ball doing it. We heard that in the previous five days 1,680 boxes of school supplies were given to approximately 600 families and they were expecting to hand out many more. We also learned what other assistance Restore Hope offers and how they are seeing record numbers of clients. Additionally, Pastor Don shared Sunday that Restore Hope could really use cash contributions to help with their rent assistance program. Currently, there aren't enough funds to help all those requesting assistance. Please pray about whether you can contribute and help make a difference.

Our next mission project is set for Saturday, September 17th at the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma. We will be sorting and repackaging food. Also, kids ages 8 and up can help with this project so come and bring your child or grandchild and show them what a thrill it can be to serve others. Please contact me at gopokes93@gmail.com or 918.246.0359 if you'd like to volunteer. We promise you will be blessed by being a blessing!

Jami Warkentin and the Mission Committee

Meetings Coming Up

There are several meetings coming up so please mark your calendars and if you are on the committee, please make every effort to attend. Evangelism Committee will meet this Thursday, August 18 at 7 p.m. to work on Rally Day. Nominations Committee will meet on Sunday, August 21 at 2 p.m. to work on our 2012 Leadership. Nominations-please note the time change. Staff Parish Committee will meet on Tuesday, August 23 at 6:30 p.m. with several items on the agenda. Finally, Finance Committee will meet on Sunday, August 28th at 1 p.m.

No Needlers

There will be no more Needlers until September. The weather is just too hot for you to get out. See you September 8th & 22nd, 11:00 a.m.

UMW Circles

The UMW Circles are meeting again. Priscilla Circle will meet August 23rd at 7 p.m. at the home of Kay Woodward. Call the church office if you need her address. Faith Circle is also back. They are meeting in the Parlor on August 25th at 7 p.m. Ruth Esther will be back in September. Please call Tracey in the office if you will need childcare. Childcare is available to anyone attending a Circle Meeting.

UMW Annual Meeting

September 12 is our UMW Annual Meeting. Registration needs to be turned in to Sheree Butler, our District Treasurer, by September 2. The cost is only \$10 and you need to indicate whether you need childcare. The guest speaker is Jeanine Bezotte Romo, the coordinator of Exodus House. She is very dynamic-you won't want to miss it. E-mail Jo Nan Allen with your questions at jonanallen@yahoo.com.

SOMEONE'S PRAYING, LORD.....

It's been a year since we entered into our Time to Give Emphasis and Spiritual Renewal. It was a great success because we used Prayer and Spiritual Renewal as our foundation. We have seen so many wonderful answers to prayer this past year, however, the need for our church to be in earnest prayer is as great today. Let us not forget to daily remember our church and our church family in our prayers. We have been asked to pray really hard for Mike Patterson's 4-year old grandson, Riley, and his family that right decisions are made for treatment for his cancer. There are many others who are feeling our love and concern through our prayers. We are blessed to be known as a praying church. Let's keep praying - without ceasing! God hears and answers prayers.

OUR CABINETS ARE GOING IN!

It seems like a long wait, but our FLC kitchen is nearing completion. Cabinets are being installed this week. We thank God for Ruby Fulum's gift to the UMW for our new kitchen. We know her gift will keep on giving as the kitchen is used to provide ministry for years to come.

Crumbs From The Cracker

News:

On August 25th we will be having a short slide show of pictures from our mission trip to Birmingham, AL. So if you missed the Sunday our youth shared about their experience, or you just want to come and see some of the pictures of God working through our students come and enjoy! We will have popcorn, you can bring your favorite drink or you can purchase one from our youth concession. We will also be showing a great mission movie and story of Jim Elliot. This movie is based on a true story, and is a great encouragement and challenge to us as Christians! Come and join us!

All youth who went on the mission trip please be sure that if you took pictures on the mission trip and you would like them included in our slideshow on the 25th please have them turned into me on a disc or flash drive by Monday the 22nd. Thanks!

I will be out of the office this week so if you have any emergency's please contact Pastor Don through email, or calling up to the church.



Weekly Youth Topics:

Our youth have kicked off our series titled "Seeds, Trees, Fruits" with our first topic on preparing the soil of our hearts so that God might begin plating seeds of Love, Wisdom, Discernment, etc. into our hearts. Our second topic was "Staying Connected" to God, which was focused on encouraging our youth to do all things connected to Christ and not alone. This week our youth have the privilege to listen to Pastor Don as he shares with our youth our 3rd week about "Being in or out?"

Fun Fact: "Men can read smaller print than women can; women can hear better."

Upcoming Dates:

- August 16th No small groups this week.
- August 17th Week 3 "Seeds Trees Fruits" Guest Speaker: Pastor Don
- August 23rd No Small Groups This Week
- August 24th "Seeds Trees Fruits" Wk 4 "Don't eat the fruit!"
- August 25th Mission Movie and Picture Testimony 6:30pm-9:00pm (Pop-corn and Drinks)
- August 31st "Seeds Trees Fruits" Wk 5 "Invest Little Gain Much"
- September 4th Small Groups 6pm-8pm
- September 7th "Seeds Trees Fruits" Wk 6 "Figs or Thorns?"
- September 11th Small Groups 6pm-8pm
- September 17th Mission Project @ Food Bank 9am-12pm

(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 17

7:30 a.m.-Men's 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

7:00 p.m.-Chancel Choir

Thursday, August 18

2:00 p.m.-Worship Committee Meeting

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

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

7:00 p.m.-Evangelism Meeting

Friday, August 19

12:00 p.m.-Weight Watchers

Saturday, August 20-No Activities

Sunday, August 21

9:00 a.m.-Sunday School

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

11:45 a.m.-Praise Team Practice

2:00 p.m.-Nominations Committee Meeting

Monday, August 22

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

7:00 p.m.-Boy Scouts 101

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Seniors In Action

Seniors In Action ! Let's get together for food, fun and fellowship on Wednesday, Aug. 24th, at 11:30 a.m. in the Church Fellowship Hall. We have a great program for you! Pastor Don and Linda Tabberer will talk to us about their trip to Israel, with pictures and items for us to see. We'll have a Mystery Pot-luck lunch - whatever you bring is what we'll eat! Drinks will be provided. The worst of the heat is over, so let's get together and have a good time!

Return Service Requested

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