



# The Springs

Rev. Don Tabberer

August 31, 2011



.....  
"Blessed are the flexible for they shall  
not break when the winds of change  
blow; blessed they are for they can  
adapt and continue forward." (3 Co-  
rinthians 3, PDV)

Dear friends in Christ,

Many of you have heard this quote from the "tongue-in-cheek Bible" that attempts to offer solace in unexpected situations. I share this with you today because it occurs to me that I have not spent enough time thanking you for the way you have adapted to our current situation. Since mid-July our congregation has bravely held forth against the prevailing winds of mechanical melt-down and massive inconvenience. There has been a lot of discussion with little result surrounding what needs to be done about the sanctuary air conditioning and how much it will cost. It is a complex problem with multiple potential solutions. Smarter minds than mine are working on the problem and you will be the first to know when a solution is found, how much that solution will cost, and how we plan to pay for it.

Meanwhile you have remained calm and cheerful, regularly arriving for Sunday school at our "north campus" then making the treacherous trek across the mighty river to our "south campus" to participate in worship. Average worship attendance has fallen a bit in the midst of this hardship, but we are holding our own, as it were, against an obvious challenge to our blessed flexibility. So I want to take this time to thank you for all that you have done and continue to do to offer praise and worship to God in a space many never envisioned as a sanctuary. In many ways it reminds me that our churches in America often offered worship in spaces "not suited" to the task. Church has taken place under brush arbors, in barns, and on hillsides; worship is offered on street corners and strip malls; "church," that is worship, has never depended on the shape, the size, or the décor of the space in which it was offered. Maybe this is an important lesson for us to reclaim during this time of "flexible wandering" in the hills of Sand Springs. God is present with us wherever two or more gather in his name. Personally, I have felt the presence of the Holy Spirit more than once in our "makeshift sanctuary." Truly the presence of the Lord is in that space.

I also want to thank the church for the fact that we have the wonderful Family Life Center that we enjoy. Were it not for this facility our present situation would still exist, but we would not have the flexibility to choose to worship in such a modern and comfortable facility. Thank you to this church, thank you to your leaders and thanks be to God we have an air conditioned place to gather this

summer.

While I'm on the subject of flexibility I also want to share a couple things that are coming soon. It is "the Methodist way" to provide guidance about just about everything having to do with the local church. From liturgy to administrative structure, the United Methodist Church has a book someplace filled with rules, guidelines, suggestions, and options. When a new pastor comes on the scene there are sometimes opportunities to "shake things up" just a little. With that in mind, I want to tell you that, number one, I DO NOT want to "run" **your church**. I see my job to lead, guide, and empower **you** to run your church. I want to help the church do the very best job it can of being in mission and ministry, making disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Number two, I feel that it often helps to get a fresh perspective on things and allow that perspective to enter the conversation about how mission and ministry can best be served. This brings me to two items that beg your flexibility over the next few weeks and months as we work together to be all that God calls us to be.

Next Sunday, September 4, you will notice some minor changes in the order of worship. The Worship Ministry Team has moved a few things around and added some things to our regular Sunday morning worship. We hope that these changes will enhance our celebration of God's love and offer more opportunities for lay participation. Please know that this is an evolving process and your thoughts and suggestions are welcome.

Finally, you will soon begin to hear about some reorganization of our church leadership and you will notice a shift in terminology. The Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development has made some adjustments to our standing committees to bring them more in line with recommendations from *The Book of Discipline* and to provide for a more efficient operation within our leadership. Additionally, our program and ministry areas are being divided into "ministry teams" rather than "standing committees." This is being done to offer more opportunities for participation, to streamline bureaucracy, and retain accountability. As you begin to see this restructuring take shape we hope you will support this effort and that you will feel free to comment or offer suggestions for continued improvement.

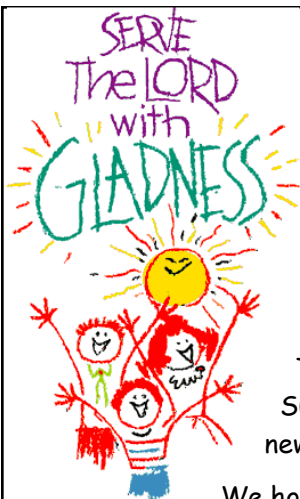
In closing, I really do want to sincerely thank everyone in the church for making the best of a difficult situation this summer and for your continued prayers and support of our ministry here.

*In Jesus' name,  
Pastor Don*



### Dinners for 8 Plus

We will meet and eat at Lindo Veracruz Mexican Food restaurant (at the back end of the Cinema 8 parking lot) on Sunday, September 11 immediately following worship. Hope to see you there!



### KidZone News

We have lots going on in Kidzone. Come by and see our Shake it Up Café room when you have time.

Sunday, September 4, will be shopping Sunday. On September 11, the children will begin studying Joshua. On September 11 the Sunbeam Kids will begin meeting again with Ms. Suzie as their teacher.

Then September 18 is another big day! It's Bring a Friend Sunday. Parents, please encourage your children to invite a new friend to church that day.

We hope everyone is getting into the swing of things at school. We pray you have a wonderful school year.  
See you Sunday!

### HUGE First Aid Kit Missing

The church has a very big first aid kit that has been missing for a couple of months. It was last seen in the Fellowship Hall. If you think you know where it is, please let a staff member know or return it to the office.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday Book Club

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday Book Club will meet on Monday, September 12 at 6:15pm. Come ready to talk about our September book, *The Story of Beautiful Girl* by Rachel Simon. It seems everyone has enjoyed reading this selection. Our October book selection will be *Have a Little Faith* by Mitch Albom.

Remember to bring a few dollars to donate toward a gift card to Central Elementary and ideas for our November book selection.

### SOMEONE'S PRAYING, LORD....

Those who attended the Service of Prayer and Healing Sunday evening received a very special bless-

ing. A beautiful service was led by Pastor Don in God's presence. Many felt the healing power as the hand of God touched them. We give thanks for Pastor Don and his wife, Linda, and Alan and Judy, as they worked together to lead us into a closer relationship with our Lord, Jesus Christ. Let's continue to pray daily for the leadership of our church, and for our members who are hurting or searching.



### Baby Shower

*The ladies are hosting a Baby Shower for Destinee Tackett on Saturday, September 17th at 3 p.m. The shower will be at the home of Barbara McClintock, 4207 S. Summit Place (bottom of 41st street hill). She is registered at Target, Wal-Mart and Babies R Us.*

## Sunday Lists

### Sunday Volunteers      September 4

Welcome Center

Crossroads

Head Ushers

Bruce Warren

Lay Reader

Ellie Costola

Children's Moment

Amy Miller

Children's Church

No Children's Church

Counters

Sheree Buttler & Jami Warkentin

Youth Dinner for Wednesday, *August 31*

Harmony

### Sunday Volunteers      September 11

Welcome Center

Crossroads

Head Usher

Bruce Warren

Lay Reader

Jan Dickerson

Children's Moment

Kristen Henry

Children's Church

No Children's Church

Counters

Glenna Stockard & Karen Wilder

Youth Dinner for Wednesday, *September 7*

Ruth Esther Circle

## Please Keep In Prayer

Walter Speed, 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, Irene Hueste, Jan Dickerson Family, BW Proft

## Acknowledgements & Information



*We Offer Our Sympathy...*

*To the family & friends of Harold Hilgendorf who passed away August 27th.*

*We've Lost a Friend*

*You are all in our prayers.*

### Thank You!

David Campbell for all the work you have been doing at the church-plumbing, roof, leaks..... You are your crew did a great job and we appreciate it!      SSMC

## Ladies Bible Study

On Sunday, September 11, there will be a short informational meeting about the ladies Bible study, Living Beyond Yourself. We will meet in the parlor from 4pm-5pm. If think you might be interested in the study, please join us!

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## September Calendar

Can you believe it's September? Please let us know if your event/meeting is not on this list. Mark Your Calendars...

- 1-UMW Executive Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- 2-Memorial Service for Harold Hilgendorf, 1:30 p.m. at the FLC
- 5-Offices Closed and no Tracey all week.
- 7-Men & Women's breakfast at Crescent Café at 7:30 a.m.
- 8-Needlers are back in! See you at 11:00 in the Parlor
- 8-Evangelism Meeting at 7 p.m.
- 11-Dinners for 8 Plus at Lindo Veracruz
- 11-Womens Bible Study Discussion
- 12-UMW Annual Meeting
- 12-2nd Monday Book Club at 6:15 p.m.
- 13-Stewardship Meeting at 7 p.m.
- 14-Women's Chamber using F. Hall at 10 a.m.
- 17-Mission Project at the Community Food Bank in Eastern OK. See Jami Warkentin for details.
- 17-Destinee Tackett Baby Shower at 3 p.m. at the home of Barbara McClintock.
- 18-Rally Day!
- 18-2:30 p.m.-Council On Ministries
- 18-4:00 p.m.-Church Council
- 22-Needlers at 11 a.m. in the Parlor
- 22-Ruth Esther Circle at 1 p.m. in the F. Hall
- 22-Faith Circle at 7 p.m. in the Parlor
- 25-Finance Meeting in the Parlor at 1 p.m.
- 27-Priscilla Circle at the home of Elaine Bird at 7 p.m.

## Rally Day is September 18!



Rally Day/Bring a Friend Sunday is just around the corner. Mark your calendars! September 18 is the big day. This is the day everyone in the congregation is encouraged to invite someone new to church. You can also make contact with someone you haven't seen in a while and tell them you miss them.

It can be a little intimidating to invite someone to church. Pastor Don says one easy way is to tell that person you'd like to invite them to church, tell them what time you'll be picking them up and to plan to go out to lunch afterward.

The evangelism committee chose September 18 as Rally Day because it is also National Back to Church Sunday. About 10,000 churches all across the country, including SSUMC, have committed to set apart this day as a day of church services specifically for serving and encouraging people who aren't regularly attending church. Research shows that less than one in five Americans attends church regularly. Even more alarming is the fact that each year almost 8 million people—150,000 per week—leave church and never go back.

So...let's do our part at SSUMC. Invite new friends to church, contact friends you haven't seen in a while and encourage them to give church a try.

# Crumbs From The Cracker

## News:

Special thanks to Don Cole for stepping out of his comfort zones and stepping into teaching our youth 2 Sunday's in a row! This has been a tremendous help for me!

Special thanks to SSUMC church family and friends for all of your support for our youth that went on their summer mission trip this past summer to Birmingham, AL. We had a good turn out of about 50 people who came and attended our picture slideshow and movie night! The youth also raised about \$60 to go towards future youth mission trips! Thanks again Church, Family, and Friends for helping our youth extend Christ's love to others!

Back to school, back to school.... just like our youth, I have headed back to school! Special thanks to our church for giving me the privilege to attend the "Youth Workers Academy" this past weekend! It was a great experience to learn more about the youth ministry as a whole, and come back with lots of new resources! It is a 4 part journey for Track 1 that will be completed over this year as I attend week-end classes at Canyon Camp.

Our youth will be heading to Asbury UMC to kick off "Metro Worship" starting September 7<sup>th</sup>! Get Excited!!!!

**Youth Parent Info Night!!!! October 6<sup>th</sup> Please come and join us for a fun, exciting, and informative meeting at the Caleb House @ 6:30-8:00pm to find out what the rest of the year and future year holds for our youth! Thanks!**

## Weekly Youth Topics:

Our "Seeds Trees Fruits" series continues this coming month as we approach a few more "Spiritual Gardening" techniques for the youth of our church. Upcoming lessons will be "Plant Little Gain Much", and "Figs or Thorns". We will be having a one week stand alone message on welcoming Wednesday September 21<sup>st</sup> to help our youth to reach out to their peers and bring them to church. Other upcoming series: "The Lord's Prayer", and "No Petting".

**Fun Fact: "The average American spends a third of their overall time online playing games and using social networks."**

## Upcoming Dates:

- August 31<sup>st</sup> "Seeds Trees Fruits" Wk 5 "Invest Little Gain Much"
- September 4<sup>th</sup> Small Groups 6pm-8pm
- September 7<sup>th</sup> Metro Worship!!! Be @ FLC @ 5:30pm Going to Ci Ci's Pizza (Please Bring \$6)
- September 11<sup>th</sup> Small Groups 6pm-8pm
- September 14<sup>th</sup> "Seeds Trees Fruits" Wk 6 "Figs and Thorns"
- September 17<sup>th</sup> Mission Project @ Food Bank 9am-12pm
- September 18<sup>th</sup> Rally Day!!! Youth please plan on attending to promote our youth group!
- September 18<sup>th</sup> District Youth Council Meeting Boston Avenue 2:00pm-3:30pm (Any youth interested in working on future committees to plan and execute district events please plan on attending.)
- September 21<sup>st</sup> Stand Alone Message "Everyone Welcome!"

(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 31

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, September 1

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

5:30 p.m.-UMW Executive Meeting-Parlor

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

### Friday, September 2

12:00 p.m.-Weight Watchers

5:30 p.m.-Grief Support-Parlor

**Saturday, September 3-No Activities**

### Sunday, September 4

9:00 a.m.-Sunday School

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

11:45 a.m.-Praise Team Practice

### Monday, September 5

**Offices Closed**

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

7:00 p.m.-Boy Scouts 101-FLC

### Tuesday, September 6

7:00 p.m.-Al Anon-Upstairs

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