

The Springs

Rev. Don Tabberer

September 28, 2011



"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for

those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?" (Matthew 5:43-47)

Recently, I heard someone say that they couldn't possibly pray for a particular individual because they knew that the other person had "stabbed them in the back." In other words, this person couldn't find a way to pray for an enemy. I was reminded of Matthew 5:43-47 where Jesus tells us to love our enemies and pray for them. I wonder if we have forgotten this mandate and its implications for our lives.

In a time when we are at war on several fronts around the globe, do we regularly pray for those with whom we are fighting? And, if we pray for them, do we pray for something other than their destruction? In what way do we pray for the Afghans, the Iranians, the Israelis, and the Palestinians? How do we pray for the Taliban, Al Qaeda, and Hezbollah?

In a culture that seems so focused on self-gratification, do we ever pray for those with whom we disagree or those who criticize us or those who cast us aside for the friend d'jour? And if we pray for these, do we pray for something other than revenge? Do we pray from the context of our own self-interest or for the interests of the other?

It seems to me that we Christians spend a lot of time praying for ourselves, our loved ones, and the causes we hold dear. We are often heard lifting up the concerns of

our church members, praying for healing of family and friends, and even praying for whatever weather we think we need at a particular time of year. We ask God to bless our troops and keep them safe; we ask for wisdom for our leaders; we ask for safe travel on busy holiday weekends. ***None of these are bad prayers.***

Jesus says: *But I tell you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you...If you love those who love you, what reward will you get?* It's easy for us to love those who love us; it's a no-brainer to pray for our friends and relations; it's simply good sense to pray for ourselves.

The question Jesus wants us to consider is this, ***So what? How hard is it to take the easy road?***

It is much harder for us to pray for peace in the world when we also consider that our enemies are God's children who may receive God's grace. If we truly desire God's will in the world, our prayers must not exclude the well-being of ALL God's people. ***Remember, if we exclude others, in the end we may be the ones who are excluded.*** When we exclude others from our prayers we are, in effect, passing judgment on them and judgment is not our job – judgment is God's job. Our job is to bear witness to our own faith and to be faithful to Jesus' command that we love and pray for those whom we call "enemy."

We are called by Jesus Christ to pray for all people in all situations. Then we are commanded to leave transformation up to God. We do not have the power to transform another human being's heart...Only God can do that. Our job is to speak the truth in love and to pray that God's will may be realized.

So, the next time you go into your prayer closet be sure to ask yourself who you will pray for today. Amen.

*Shalom,
Pastor Don*

Trunk or Treat



It's hard to believe, but Trunk or Treat is just around the corner! So mark your calendars for Monday, October 31.

Boxes will be out in narthex and at the Family Life Center for candy donations. We usually have 800 or so kids come through our parking lot so it takes a lot of candy.

We do this in order to give the children in our community a safe alternative to door to door trick or treating.

Nurture & Care Committee

The Nurture & Care Committee has a group of teams with 2 or 3 ladies per team that are taking a meal to families during their recovery time at home after a hospital stay. Our teams can use your help in letting us know when you or someone you know are in the hospital and would let us prepare a meal or take them their favorite restaurant meal after they leave the hospital. It has been a very rewarding experience for us and hopefully is helping our church family know we care about them.

Please call Joyce McFall (245-2986) or Mona Warren (241-8584) or Susie Honeycutt (419-2474) to give us your information.

We would also welcome anyone who has an interest in cooking and working with us in the endeavor. Please call Joyce McFall for more information about being on our team.

Attention: All Ladies

Are you ready for a beautiful, fun, fall event even with food? Then, you will want to attend and evening of Fall Fashions presented by United Methodist Women.

The event will be October 4th at 6:00 p.m. at the Family Life Center, 101 W. 38th Street. There will be dinner and door prizes.

The ticket cost is \$8. You must have a ticket to attend. If you need more information or a ticket, please call Louise Read at 906-6227.



Prayer Chain Update

Joyce McFall is in the process of updating our Prayer Chain list. In addition to our

popular e-mail prayer chain, we have daytime calling teams and an evening calling team. If you would like to be included in one of these prayer chains, or if you feel a need to have your name removed, please let Joyce, Ellie or Virginia know. New guidelines will be printed up for the calling teams. Through these prayer chains, our prayer requests reach over 70 homes! We have seen God do mighty things through our combined prayers!



Mission Morsels

The annual CROP Walk for Tulsa area is this Sunday, October 2nd. Registration is at 1:30 p.m. at

Boston Avenue UMC (1301 S. Boston Ave. in Tulsa). The walk begins at 2:00 p.m. There are two walks; a 1 and 1/2 mile walk and a 4 mile walk. If you are interested in walking or raising money to help the hungry, please contact Jami Warkentin at 918-246-0359. You may also log on to cropwalk.org to sign up as a walker or make a donation to our team. At the cropwalk.org homepage, click on *Oklahoma* to find the Tulsa hunger walk. Click on the *Tulsa walk* then you can either sing up or donate. If you click "donate", you can either support a participant, support a team (Sand Springs United Methodist) or donate to the walk. Please consider helping this worthy cause. Remember that 25% of the funds raised for this walk will be kept local and support both Restore Hope and Western Neighbors and the remaining 75% supporting the hungry throughout the world.

Sunday Lists

Sunday Volunteers October 2

Welcome Center

Discovery Class

Head Ushers

Ray Walker

Lay Reader

Sue Wiedemann

Young Disciples Lesson

Cathy Gifford

Children's Church

No Children's Church

Counters

Smith's & Gary Dobbs

Visitor Center

Norma Jones & Friends

Youth Dinner for Wednesday, *September 28*

Seniors In Action

Sunday Volunteers October 9

Welcome Center

Discovery Class

Head Usher

Ed David

Lay Reader

Dick Ford

Young Disciples Lesson

Kristen Henry

Children's Church

No Children's Church

Counters

Sondra Bogert & Dick Ford

Visitor Center

Norma Jones & Friends

Youth Dinner for Wednesday, *October 5*

Youth to Metro Worship

Please Keep In Prayer

Walter Speed, Don Baldridge, 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, Jan Dickerson Family, BW Proft, June Horn, Cheek family, Staci Huckaby, Bob Schmidt, Judy Haggard

Acknowledgements & Information

Thank You...

Thank you to Pastor Don for a wonderful service, to Alan for the beautiful music and to the women for the Family lunch and to all Dad's church family for all the food, friendship and support you have shown him. Your thoughts and prayers were felt. Thank You.

Craig Hilgendorf & Family

Thank You...

Thank you to my church family for all the cards and prayers. A special thank you to the UMW for all the thoughtful things you did for me while I was not well. Everyone's thoughts and prayers were surly needed and appreciated.

Martha Scudder

Crumbs From The Cracker

News:

Our youth joined the mission committee on September 17th to help at the food pantry! We had 7 youth and two awesome volunteers lead our students into putting their faith in action alongside the mission committee! Thank you students, volunteers, and mission committee for allowing us to partner with you to make an impact for Christ by putting actions to our words! Keep up the great work Jami and mission team!

On September 18th three of our students attended the District Youth Council meeting at Faith UMC. The students that attended were (Julia Henry, Lauren Miller, and Julie Ferguson) these future leaders of our church will be on committees at the district level to plan and execute future Tulsa district events! Thank you students for stepping out of your comfort zones and stepping into leadership positions. All three of our students will also be running for representatives for the Tulsa district as well so please be in prayer for them! Thank you to Amy Miller for being our transporter of our students you were a tremendous help!

Youth Parent Info Night!!!! October 6th 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! We would like to have at least one parent for each family attend! The more the merrier! Thanks!

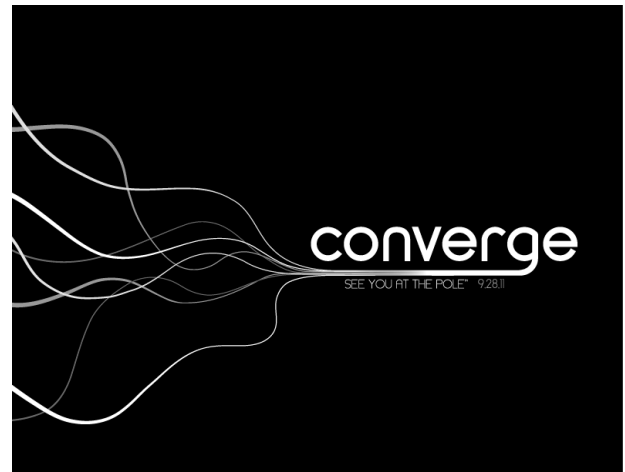
Are you in a Sunday school class or UMW Circle? Have you made a meal for our students for Wednesday nights or youth events? Well our youth would like to show you their appreciation on October 9th! Come to church HUNGRY!!!! Skip breakfast on this morning because our youth will be coming to every Sunday school class during the (9am-10am) window to say THANK YOU for all of the great meals and bring you a great meal! Pancakes on us! Mark your calendar and look forward to a delicious breakfast!

Can Christians gamble? For Jesus they can!! Our upcoming series that our students will be learning about is how to be "All In" for "Jesus, Church, and Community" this series is a follow up series to our growing series "Seeds Trees Fruits" we are going to give our students opportunities to put their "Faith" where their words are! Get excited as we kick this new series off during the middle of October.



Weekly Youth Topics:

Wednesday night we had a great message about challenging our students to reach out and welcome people from school to church. This was a challenge because most of the time we see people who need to be in church but won't approach them because they are those sinner kids you know the "Tax Collector" "Prostitute" "Sinner" but they need to know they are welcome to be apart of God's work here on earth as well! "Jesus came to call the sick" are we going to welcome the sick? Thank you Michael Cooper for helping me teach the Sr. High about this important topic! You are a leader or your peers! Keep pressing into Jesus! We will be having our "See you at the pole" event this coming Wednesday! Please be in prayer for our students as our churches come together to share the "Good News" with 600 plus students!



FREE Christian MUSIC!!!!!!!

Follow steps below:

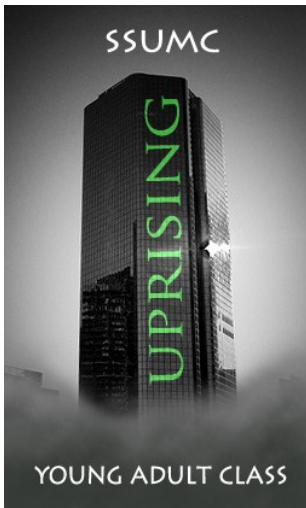
Go to air1.com or klove.com or Both, Click Music
Click Free Song, Follow steps to download from i-tunes
Worship and Enjoy! Thank Jesus!

Upcoming Dates:

- September 28th See You At The Pole Prayer (7:45am)
- September 28th Saw You At The Pole Evening Service! (Be @ FLC @ 6pm)
- October 2nd Small Groups 6pm-8pm
- October 5th Metro Worship!!!
- October 6th Parent Info Night 6:30pm-8pm
- October 9th Pancake Sunday!!!!

(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)

Fun Fact: 25% of your bones are located in your feet.



College/Young Adult Small Group Forming

Are you 18-25 years old? Then this is the group for you. Come find out what it is all about this Sunday, October 2nd at 5:00 at the church.

There will be snacks and fun and we will talk about what you want this new group to be. Come ready with your ideas. What can your church do to help strengthen your spiritual lives?

Looking forward to working with you all.
Kristen Henry and Buster Hall, your co-leaders

Someone's Praying, Lord.....

This Sunday is *World-Wide Communion Sunday*. It offers us a special time to remember all the hurting people in our world in prayer as we participate in communion. Another opportunity it offers is to lift each person in our congregation up in prayer as they come forward. It's a practice I have enjoyed for several years. I attempt to lift each person or family to God by name. If I don't know someone, then I try to find out who they are. As Pastor Don mentioned a few weeks ago, our church family should truly feel they are in a place "where everybody knows my name." An added bonus is to know that you are being prayed for and cared for.

Another opportunity to pray....We will have slips of paper with the name of a child, youth or adult leader ready on Children's Sabbath, October 9. You may draw a name to take home and lift that young person and their family in prayer during the year. God works in wonderful ways as we remember them in prayer.

With love and prayers, Virginia

Ladies Bible Study

The ladies Bible study, *Living Beyond Yourself*, meets Mondays at 6pm in the church parlor. It isn't too late to get involved. Call Amy Miller at 245-3076 if you are interested.

Worship Training Program

Saturday, October 1 at the North Main Street Campus, we will be offering a Worship Training Program for all who have a leading part in Sunday Worship.

Please plan to attend any training session that you already participate in or where you are interested in participating.

Ushers-9:30 a.m.

Communion Servers-10:00 a.m.

Lay Readers-10:30 a.m.

We want to go over a couple of things with each group that will refresh our memories and help our worship service to run more smoothly. Please try to join us on Saturday, October 1 at the CHURCH. This is open to those who are already involved in service at worship and those who would like to become involved. *Thanks!*

2nd Monday Book Club

Our 2nd Monday Book Club meets again on Oct. 10 at 6:15pm at the church. If you love to read please join us. We welcome anyone in the community who loves books. So invite a friend! Our books selections for October and November are:

October: *Have a Little Faith* by Mitch Albom

November: *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand* by Helen Simonson

Winter Coats for Children

Destiny Heritage, Inc. (a non-profit organization) is collecting winter coats for children of the Sand Springs Community to provide for those children who would not otherwise have one this winter. We are asking for your help & participation with PROJECT KIDS' COATS! Please bring kids' winter coats, clean & gently used or new.

There will be a drop off box located in the Narthex.

For more information, contact Destiny Heritage, Inc. founder Victoria Kelm @ 918.902.2344 or

Sara Ashton @ 918.814.4386 or via email @ Victoria@destinyheritage.com

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

CP=Childcare Provide ~ FLC-Family Life Center

Wednesday, September 28

7:30 a.m.-Men's Breakfast—Crescent Café
7:45 a.m.-See You At The Pole—all youth
10:00 a.m.-Exercise to Music-FLC
6:00 p.m.-SSUMC Youth Dinner-FLC then to Angus Acres for Saw
You At The Pole
7:00 p.m.-Chancel Choir

Thursday, September 29

4:15 & 5:30 p.m.-Weight Watchers
5:30 p.m.-Children's Sabbath Planning Meeting
6:30 p.m.-Cub Scouts Troop 601-Caleb House

Friday, September 30

12:00 p.m.-Weight Watchers

Saturday, October 1

9:30 p.m.-Usher Training-Parlor
10:00 a.m.-Communion Servers Training-Parlor
10:30 p.m.-Lay Readers Training-Parlor

Sunday, October 2-Children's Sabbath

9:00 a.m.-Sunday School

10:30 p.m.-Blended Worship-FLC
11:45 a.m.-Praise Team Practice
2:00 p.m.-Trustee Meeting-Parlor
3:00 p.m.-Nominations Meeting-Parlor

Monday, October 3

10:00 a.m.-Exercise to Music-FLC
6:15 p.m.-Ladies Book Club-Parlor
7:00 p.m.-Boy Scouts 101-FLC

Tuesday, October 4

6:00 p.m.-UMW Style Show-Family Life Center
7:00 p.m.-Al Anon-Upstairs

Wednesday, October 5

7:30 p.m.-Men's/Women's Breakfast-Crescent Café
10:00 a.m.-Exercise to Music-FLC
5:30 p.m.-Youth to Metro Worship
7:00 p.m.-Chancel Choir

Sand Springs UMC

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www.SandSpringsumc.org

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Return Service Requested

Dinners For 8 Plus

We will meet for lunch after church
on Sunday, October 9th at the

Steer Inn

In Mannford.

Hope you all can make it!

Label Here