

The Springs



Rev. Don Tabberer

February 1, 2012

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"Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed

around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' He asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The reply came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.' (Acts 9:3-6)

This is just a small part of the story of Paul's conversion along the Road to Damascus. (You can read the whole story in Acts 9.) It's a wonderful story about how God can take the most unlikely of people and change them into a voice of hope and healing in the world. Paul was a really bad guy when this story happened. He was hunting down the followers of Jesus and killing them for their faith. It's interesting that in his vision Jesus asked Paul, "Why do you persecute *me*?" It is obvious that God considered Paul's crimes against believers to be crimes against God. This is the nature of the Body of Christ; whatever we do to any member of the Body, we do also to Christ. Maybe we should consider this thought the next time we have a choice to make concerning how we will behave toward another person. We should think about those things that we may be doing or saying that amount to persecution of Jesus by way of our poor treatment of God's people. I believe we can all do better.

It is also worth noting that most of us will never experience this "*flash of light...Road*

to Damascus-style" conversion moment.

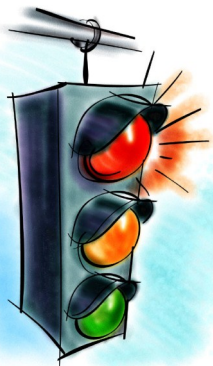
For most of us conversion happens in small doses, day-after-day as we discover the best ways to follow Jesus within our own lives. We make small decisions to follow Jesus' example; we notice another person whose need is greater than ours; we experience a special blessing in prayer; we feel God's presence and hear the still small voice; we notice God's redeeming grace. These are small flashes of light that lead us to realize how blind we have been and help us to gain the sight that God has in mind for us.

Paul's conversion, like ours, is not simply a matter of changing his mind and recognizing his bad behavior. Paul's conversion, like ours, required him to hear and respond to God's call on our lives. Paul's experience caused him to lose his sight for three days and to take that time to really consider who he was as a child of God and what was expected from him. The symbolism is clear here: Paul was plunged into darkness for three days and then raised into a new light on the third day. We must also lose our own selfish lives of darkness and be raised into a new light under the authority of Jesus Christ.

Just as Paul was sent out into the world to serve God, so we are called and sent to people aching for a word of hope and healing. Our mission to love all people – friend and foe – speaks to God's ability to use even the most unlikely people, even us, to do God's kingdom-building work on earth.

May God's word today truly disturb us,
Pastor Don

Transportation Committee Organized



Do you no longer drive but still need to go to the doctor and other places and the bus does not suit your timing? Eldin Fisher has organized a team of drivers that can help. Call him at 918-241-3667. Plan ahead. Call Tracey at the church if Eldin isn't available.

What's Up With the Camera?

We've had a few questions about the camera that keeps appear-



ing in church on Sunday morning. People want to know what's going on. This is the beginning of a new outreach ministry for our church. We are recording our sermons and Graeme's youth lessons each week so that we can share this Good News with people who are unable to attend worship or Youth Group. The recordings are then uploaded to our YouTube Channel to be viewed by anyone. This is a great way to share God's word with others, to give people who miss a sermon or a lesson the chance to see it, and parents the chance to see what Graeme is teaching each week. We wanted to try this for a bit to see how it was going to work without spending a lot of money on the equipment. The camera we are using right now is not adequate for the task and we realize that it has caused some disruption because of its location in the sanctuary. Our ultimate goal is to be able to acquire the right kind of equipment that will not only allow us to continue and expand our Internet ministry presence, but also allow us to record entire worship services to DVD so they can be given to people to view at home when they are sick or otherwise unable to join us. This kind of equipment would be mounted in the back of the church and would be operated from the control booth area so that no one in church would notice its presence. This is our ultimate goal and we are working toward that goal. Please be patient with us as we grow and transition to new ways of doing ministry. You can see the

results of this ministry by going to the following links:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/SSunitedCmethodist>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/SSUMCTheAwakening>

Estate Planning Thoughts

Are you leaving a legacy of "red tape" for your heirs? A legal will drawn by your attorney will cut out the "red tape" and accomplish what you want to happen following your death.

2nd Monday Book Club

2nd Monday Book Club meets again on Monday, February 13 at 6:15pm in the parlor. If you enjoy reading please make plans to join us. And invite a friend.

The 2nd Sunday Dinners 4 8 + are going to Charlie Mitchell's on Feb. 12. No advanced reservation has been made. Try to arrive by 12:30 p.m.... they will seat bodies who are present.



Are You Ready For Some Football

Don't want to fix lunch for the BIG Super Bowl? Well, don't worry! The youth have you covered. Next Sunday, February 5th, the youth will be selling submarine sandwiches after church to cover your Super Bowl Sunday meal! In return, you are supporting them in Missions! So Order Up!!!

SOMEONE'S PRAYING, LORD.....

I saw something wonderful this weekend. Saturday, we saw our church's football, soccer and baseball teens come together as a basketball team having fun, even as they showed respect to a couple of girls playing on the opposite team. Our teen girls were bonding over scrapbooking. Then Sunday night, I watched a beautiful service where 20 of our youth pledged their faithfulness to Christ as No. 1 in their lives. I saw tears in the eyes of our youth director as he presented them with purity rings. It was especially meaningful to me as most of these youth had been an important part of our children's ministry and Faith Explorers when I was involved with them.

I also saw the Children's team excited that their ministry is growing again after a large group had moved to the youth program. The Kingdom Kids did such great job singing in worship. What a blessing they are!

Please continue to pray for our youth and children, their leaders and their families. If you drew an individual name last fall to pray for, please remember to lift that young person and their families up daily. You will see a wonderful growth in our church as new families learn this is where their children and youth grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ. Let the young ones lead them! Your prayers will help make that happen.

Your Prayer Coordinator
Virginia



Mission Morsels

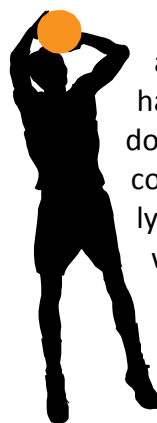
Do you have a heart for missions whether it be local or otherwise? Please join our team. We need you! We will be scheduling our first meeting of 2012 to brainstorm goals soon. So, be on the lookout for a date and time and come join us if you can!

Winnie Mansfield did some checking at Restore Hope to find out what their current needs are. They could use rice, beans (dry or canned), and peanut butter. They have had a lot of clients this month needing assistance. If you have a little extra and can be a bless-

ing, you can add these items to our round bin down the hall headed south toward the Caleb House. Additionally, if you have some free time, Restore Hope could use some volunteers for Thursday afternoons or as backups on other days when regularly scheduled volunteers can't make it.

Thanks and God Bless You!
Jami Warkentin

Boys Basketball?



Betcha didn't know our youth boys have a Basketball team AND they have already had a few games! The "Blue Devils" are doing great and would love to have you come out and support them. There are only a few games left. Let's end this on a winning streak!

Saturday, Feb. 4-3 p.m.-FUMC downtown

Saturday, Feb. 11-5 p.m.-FUMC downtown

Saturday, Feb. 18-4 p.m.-FUMC downtown
Come out and cheer them on!

Young Adult Help

Buster Hall will be in the Caleb House every Tuesday evening to help young adult college students. If you are having trouble with homework or just need to talk, stop by between 8 & 10 p.m. Buster will be there to listen and help.

Next Newsletter will be February 13th.

Remember, all articles should be in the office by noon on Monday, February 13th.

Offices Closed February 20th

Mark your calendars. Also, Don is out of the office Feb. 7-9 and No Graeme on Feb. 24-26th.

Crumbs From The Cracker



Follow us on Twitter: theAwakening_



"Like" – Facebook: "The Awakening" Ssumc youth



YouTube Channel: SSUMCTheAwakening

News:

Youth Purity Service!

On Sunday we honored 19 youth for their journey through our "No Petting" series, and their quest for sexual purity! It was such a wonderful service with guest musicians and speaker from Oklahoma City "Barefoot Travelers", and "Worth the Wait" ministry leader Paul Abner. Thank you for coming out and supporting our youth and their desire for purity!

Super bowl Sub Sunday!

Save time and support a great cause! SSUMC youth will be selling Super Bowl Subs in the Narthex immediately after worship on February 5th to support their mission trip to Quad cities this summer! Come and buy one, two, three, or more! \$5 for chips, drink, and sub - sandwich!

Sunday Movie Night!

Are you off on President's Day? Well your kids are! Come and join us for a Family Movie Night @ the Family Life Center February 19th @ 6pm!!! Mark your calendars, and come and support youth missions! Fully stocked concession stand!

Weekly Youth Topics:

The youth will be starting a new series on February 8th called "Declaration Generation"! It is going to be a great series to encourage our youth to know what God thinks of them and that they can be world changers if they believe it!

Do you want to support our Youth Mission Team 2012?

If you would like to make a donation or sponsor one of our youth to go on the mission trip, they would be delighted to receive any type of help! Last year just from our random generous donors we were able to pay for 3 full trips of our students! Let's try for 5 this year!

Upcoming Dates:

- February 1st - Metro Worship Meet @ FLC @ 5:30pm Bring \$5
- February 2nd - First Mission Team Meeting 6pm- 8pm @ Caleb House
- February 4th - Boys Basketball @ 3pm @ First Methodist Tulsa
- February 5th - Super Bowl Sub Sunday!!!! Youth Fundraiser!!! @ Church
- February 8th - Start a new series "Declaration Generation" Wk 1
- February 9th - Boys B-ball Practice @ 6pm @ FLC
- February 10th - Mission Team Help Charles Page Basketball Concession
- February 11th - Youth Ladies and Moms Scrapbook @ Caleb House 10:30am-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)

Fun Fact: 50% of U.S. pizzas are sold with pepperoni on them.

Special Thank You!!!!

We would like to thank all of those who played a part in making our "Purity" service special for our youth on January 29th. Whether you were a decorator, a server of refreshments, a study usher, a music booth specialist, bulletin hander out, clean up person, or something else I may have missed! Thank You Thank You Thank You!!! The youth felt very honored and loved! You are the church of Sand Springs United Methodist Church! Thank you!



Hey Kids!

It was FANTASTIC to see so many children with us yesterday!! The last time we had as many kids as we had in attendance yesterday was September 2010. Mrs. Cathy, the Kingdom Kids and Mike Patterson did a great job sharing their musical gifts with us in worship yesterday. Thank you!

We have now completed our rotation on The Church Year. The children can still earn \$5 Bible bucks for reciting the seasons of the church year in order and/or \$5 for knowing the color associated with each season. We shop this Sunday.

We will be going Valentine Caroling on Feb 11th. More details to follow.

During our next rotation we will be watching the movie "Dolphin Tale" and doing Sunday School lessons associated with the movie. More details to follow.

See you Sunday!

Sunday Lists

Sunday Volunteers February 5

Visitors Center & Coffee

Harmony

Head Ushers

Eddy David

Lay Reader

Kent Warkentin

Young Disciples Lesson

Kristen Henry

Children's Church

Debbie & Marty

Counters

Sheree Buttler & Jami Warkentin

Youth Dinner for Wednesday, *February 1*

Metro Worship

Sunday Volunteers February 12

Visitors Center & Coffee

Harmony

Head Usher

Eddy David

Lay Reader

Barbara Fisher

Young Disciples Lesson

Marty David

Children's Church

Marty & Debbie

Counters

Janie Moore & Kent Warkentin

Youth Dinner for Wednesday, February 8

Searchers

Please Keep In Prayer

Walter Speed, Francis Joslin, Wilbur & Jewel Williams, Mel Jones, Ryder Herring, Gene Watson, June Horn, Mary Lea Forsythe, Ruth Weaver, Jo Nan Allen, Virginia Vice, Martha Scudder, Don Baldrige, Pond family & friends, Valerie Jones, Earl & Lora Cervantez, and all un-spoken requests

Acknowledgements

A big THANK YOU goes to the Harmony Class. During the month of January their class members donated 10 full bags of groceries to Sand Springs Community Services. Thank you for giving back to the community in Jesus' name!

To My Church Family at SSUMC

Thank you so much for all your thoughts and prayers during my recent surgery and recovery. I know that through your prayers God took care of me. It was very comforting to know His presence is what was with me and His healing hands took care of me. Thank you once again!

Sincerely, Sherry Read

To my church family-

I want to thank you for your love and prayers during my recent surgery. Thanks for the wonderful food and cards that I received. A special thanks to Mrs. Debbie and the Kidzone Kids for the awesome cards they made for me. I am blessed to have a wonderful church family and am so glad to be back.

Love, Marty David

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

FLC-Family Life Center

Wednesday, February 1

7:30 a.m.-M/W Breakfast—Crescent Café
10:00 a.m.-Exercise to Music-FLC
5:30 p.m.-Youth to Metro
6:00 p.m.-Chancel Ringers
7:00 p.m.-Chancel Choir

Thursday, February 2

4:15 & 5:30 p.m.-Weight Watchers— F. Hall
6:00 p.m.-Youth Mission Meeting-Caleb House

Friday, February 3

12:00 p.m.-Weight Watchers
5:30 p.m.-Grief Support-Parlor
5:30 p.m.-Mansfield in FLC

Saturday, February 4

3:0 p.m.-Boys Basketball Game-FUMC downtown

Sunday, February 5

9:00 a.m.-Sunday School
10:30 a.m.-Worship

12:00 p.m.-Praise Team Practice

Monday, February 6

10:00 a.m.-Exercise to Music-FLC
7:00 p.m.-Boy Scouts 101-FLC

Tuesday, February 7-No Don

8:00 p.m.-Young Adult Meeting-Caleb House
7:00 p.m.-Al Anon-Upstairs

Wednesday, February 8-No Don

7:30 p.m.-Men's Breakfast-Crescent Café
10:00 a.m.-Exercise to Music-FLC
6:00 p.m.-JH Youth
7:00 p.m.-SH Youth
6:00 p.m.-Chancel Ringers
7:00 p.m.-Chancel Choir

Thursday, February 9-No Don

11:00 a.m.-Needlers-Parlor
4:15 & 5:30 p.m.-Weight Watchers-F. Hall

Sand Springs UMC

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www.SandSpringsumc.org

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