

The Springs



Rev. Don Tabberer

April 25, 2012

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*"Like good stewards of
the manifold grace of
God, serve one another
with whatever gift each of
you has received."*

(1 Peter 4:10)

Many of our church members have been partici-
pating in a study called, **"Understanding Spiritu-
al Gifts."** The purpose of this study is to help
people identify the particular gifts that God has
given them and what God might have planned
for each person to use those gifts. The natural
way for us to look at our material possessions,
our lives, and our gifts is to think that these
things belong to us. The biblical truth, however,
stands in stark contrast with this human notion.
The fact is that God owns everything – all that
we are and all that we have. God created every-
thing and retains ownership of everything; we
are simply allowed to borrow these gifts for the
short time we live on earth. We are the manag-
ers or stewards of these gifts; this includes our
money, material properties, family, time, and
even our own bodies.

Ultimately, we are accountable to God for how
we manage these resources. God has certain
expectations of us as faithful stewards and God
will ask us to give an accounting of how we man-
aged what we were given to care for.

Understanding what our particular gifts are and
then realizing how to be good stewards of every-
thing we've been given is vital to a healthy rela-
tionship with God and to the spread of the gos-
pel in the world in which we live. Effective Chris-
tians are constantly moving toward spiritual ma-
turity. Anything we can do to encourage our
spiritual growth is beneficial to this maturing
process. That is why I believe this study is so
important to our church. We cannot grow in our
Christian walk unless we know where we are on
the journey and where we need to be.

Growing into faithful stewardship is challenging
for most people. We have heard countless ser-
mons about tithing and we have been confront-
ed by the cultural realities of economic crisis,
two-income families, and the rising cost of living.
Statistics tell us that the average Christian adult
in America gives less than 2% of their income to
the church; this is a far-cry from the biblical man-
date of 10%. The issue seems to be that we are
all struggling to feed our families, pay the rent,
and have money left over for the things we want
out of life. These struggles often leave us think-
ing that God will understand our dilemma and
give us a pass on fulfilling his commandment.
There is also the issue that many people under a
certain age have never been taught the concept
of tithing because "the church" stopped talking
about it a long time ago in an effort to avoid
offending people. The truth is that speaking the
command to tithe is a prophetic voice that must
be heard.

Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ
for the transformation of the world. As Chris-
tians, we must evaluate every decision we make
based on that mission. We must have the cour-
age to ask ourselves: *How will this choice, this
purchase, or this gift make a difference in the
mission to bring people to Jesus?*

Let me take this out of the realm of money for a
minute to give you an example of how God sees
our world. There are 24 hours in every day. A
tithe would equal 2.4 hours spent in prayer or
Bible study. Time is one of our most precious,
yet wasted resources. Do you remember what
you did yesterday between 10:00 and 12:00?
Whatever your answer is, those events are part
of your past and cannot be lived again. Were
they tithed or wasted?

***God blesses us so that we will bless others,
Pastor Don***

Wanna Mow?

Anyone who would like to volunteer to help mow the lawn at the Family Life Center, please contact Jim Shaw at 224-2566. This would be on a rotational basis like last year. All maintenance on the mower will be done, just show up and mow.

Jim Shaw

Video Equipment

Many of you have noticed our efforts to record Sunday sermons to video. This ministry is used to reach out to people who cannot otherwise attend worship services for one reason or another. We post these recordings to the Internet for anyone to watch when they want to see what they've missed. You may recall that we talked about this ministry in a newsletter article in January.

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. Please be understanding of the current situation as we seek to improve it.

Our ultimate goal is to be able to acquire the right kind of equipment that will not only allow us to continue to 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 be bothered by its presence.

The cost of this equipment is \$4,300 and we have established a fund to

make it happen as soon as possible. You may make a contribution to this fund by putting your donation in an envelope marked "TV FUND" and placing it in the collection plate. Please help us make this ministry everything that it can be. Help us reach people who cannot come to us. Thank you.

Electronic Giving

Electronic giving is an easier, more secure way to make your regular contributions to our church through automated giving. Many people have already made the decision to use this method because it offers peace of mind and security. ***Here's why you should sign up now:***

- No need to write checks or bring cash to church
- Peace of mind knowing that the church is receiving your contribution even if you are unable to attend
- More secure than checks
- All contributions are recorded for you on your bank statement with the date of settlement.
- IT COST YOU NOTHING EXTRA!

It seems that more and more people prefer making financial transactions electronically. Our church wants to make it easier for you to be faithful to your stewardship commitment by encouraging enrollment in our electronic giving program. Even when you are away on vacation or otherwise unable to attend, your contribution to mission and ministry continues so you don't need to worry about trying to make it up when you get back. Please consider this as a wonderful way to support our church and sign up today. Authorization forms are available at the Welcome Desk or from the Church Office.

School Supply Kits



Our Mission Team has done it again! They have found a wonderful way to help others. See "School Supply Kits" insert in this newsletter.

Floral Haven Plots

Floral Haven Memorial Gardens "Garden of Devotion" area, lot 81-A with 1, 2, 3, 4 spaces adjoining units. Floral Haven is asking \$2,800 per lot. These are severely discounted at less than \$2,000. If you are interested, contact John Koons at 918-451-5383 or e-mail him at koonsden@cox.net

Annual Conference 2012

The Oklahoma Annual Conference will be held at Boston Avenue United Methodist Church in Tulsa for the last time this year. Future conferences will stay in Oklahoma City. On Wednesday, June 6 at 3:00 p.m., our own Chancel Choir will lead the closing worship service in the Boston Avenue sanctuary. Anyone is welcome to attend this worship service. Also, it is not too late to contribute to the Annual Conference Missions Offering. This year the money raised will go to benefit these organizations:

Restore Hope Ministries of Tulsa

Regional Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma

Lydia Patterson Institute in El Paso, Texas

Please support these wonderful groups with your generous contribution to the Annual Conference Offering.

Don't Forget the Building Fund

We are still in the midst of an active building campaign. Many of you are regular contributors to the "Time to Give" campaign that seeks to pay off the land and the Family Life Center building so that we can move forward with the next phase of the project. However, I know there are some people who are new to our church or who did not have the opportunity to pledge during that campaign. This is a friendly reminder that the future of our church is on the new property where the Family Life Center is located. We are moving forward with plans to relocate our entire campus to this property and we need everyone's support to make it happen. It is no secret that we have parking problems at the main Campus that cannot be solved. The current facility is aging and requires more and more expensive maintenance. We must continue

to step out in faith to make our new campus a reality as soon as possible.

The mission and ministries of this church cannot grow to their full potential unless we have more space to bring people in and to send people out. We need to keep this project at the forefront of our minds and keep moving forward.

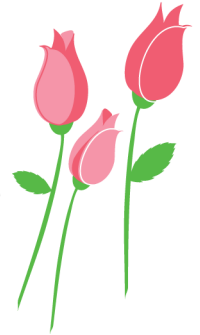
SOMEONE'S PRAYING, LORD....

If you have been at the Family Life Center recently, I'm sure you have noticed how beautiful our Prayer Garden is. Thanks to Bert & Kay Woodward, beautiful rose bushes and other plants and flowers have been added to make the garden exceptionally fantastic. The pansies have outdone themselves this year and the roses are in full

bloom. Much work, planting and weeding, has been done to make the garden what it is today. If you haven't seen it, take time to drive in and look.

Also, the front of our main church has taken on its own beauty. Eldin Fisher had new azaleas planted, as well as cleaning out the beds. Eldin has also planted flowers to make our entrance more beautiful. As you enjoy the results of these laborers, please breathe a prayer of thanks to our Master Gardener for the beautiful spring we are enjoying, as well as our gardeners for sharing their gifts of love and beauty. Mark your calendar now for our annual Pentecost Prayer Vigil. It will be held from 7:00 a.m. Saturday, May 26 to 7:00 a.m., Pentecost Sunday, May 27.

Virginia



Grief Support Group

Just a reminder that this Friday, April 27th at 6:30 p.m. in the Parlor is Grief Support with Leah Bradley. You may remember from past articles, Leah is a Good Shepherd Hospice Social Worker helping people find their "way through the Wilderness of your grief." Dozens of topics are up for discussion. Following Friday night, they meet every other Friday at the same time, same place.

Crumbs From The Cracker

News:

Grad Recognition:

Are you a graduating and member of this church? You don't want to miss this event! We will be recognizing all graduates this coming Sunday at both services and also having a nice breakfast for you during the Sunday school hour! **Please come and join us as we celebrate your next step into the future! Thanks!**

Youth Mission Trip News:

Thank you, thank you, thank you, to our youth, parents, volunteers, and congregation for the great turn out at our Spaghetti lunch! Special thanks to Don Cole our master chef! Our youth mission team was able to raise \$481.00 profit towards their youth mission trip to the Quad Cities!

Do you have a secret recipe for a pie that everyone loves? We will be having a pie auction for our youth mission team members! Would you be willing to donate it to the youth program for the auction that will take place on June 10th? We have 16 students and we are looking to have 16 pies donated to auction? Are you interested? Please call the church and speak to Graeme if you are interested in preparing a pie for the pie Auction! Thanks!

The Youth mission team is still raising support for their mission **we have raised a total of \$4,077.00**. We are trying to meet the **goal of at least \$6,000.00 or more**. Due to the fact that we will **need to rent 2 vans this year** since ours will probably not be road worthy for the mission this year.

Weekly Youth Topics:

We have kicked off our 2-part series "Why Worship?" that is focused on giving the students a stronger grasp of what worship is, and how important it is to their relationship with God! Following this series we will be starting a new series in May that is called "Money, Money, Money" learning a Biblical perspective on money management and application!

Upcoming Dates:

- **April 25th - "Why Worship" Wk 2 "How, Where and When do we worship?"**
- **April 29th - Grad Recognition Sunday! Youth and parents of youth help us honor our Senior w/ a pancake breakfast during Sunday School @ church to help**

prepare @ 8:30am

- **April 29th - Third Mission Trip Meeting 6pm @ Stockard's House Bring your 1 page paper (Girls bring drinks, boys bring chips)**
- **May 2nd - Cinco de Bando meet @ FLC @ 5:30pm (Bring \$5)**
- **May 4th - Graeme will be teaching @ FCA 9th grade center**

(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: Pepsi originally contained pepsin, thus the name.

Summer Camp Baby!

Camp books are out! & Camp dates are out! Get excited! Youth will be going to Egan this coming summer **July 16th - July 20th** Mark your calendars! Last year we had 10 people go!!!! Lets make it 15+ this year! Sign-up!!!



KidZone News

We have started the Jesus in Jeans curriculum which focuses on the books of the bible. If the children learn the Books of the Old Testament in order they will receive 50 Bible bucks. They'll earn 25 Bible bucks for learning the New Testament books in order. They'll earn 100 bucks if they learn both and a special treat. Kingdom Kids will be singing in both services next week. Ms. Cathy asks that children stay for the a few minutes of the 11am service to allow the children to sing at the beginning of the service.

See you Sunday!

Sunday Lists

Sunday Volunteers April 29

Visitors Center & Coffee-Discovery

Head Usher-8:30 a.m.-Frank Johnston

Head Usher-11:00 a.m.-Roger Nelson

Lay Reader-8:30 a.m.-Kent Warkentin

Lay Reader-11:00 a.m.-Barbara Fisher

Young Disciples Lesson-8:30 a.m.-Kingdom Kids

Young Disciples Lesson-11:00 a.m.-Kingdom Kids

8:30 a.m. Children's Church-Kingdom Kids 11:00 a.m.-Debbie Schmidt

Counters-Diana Pond and Jack Vest

Youth Dinner for Wednesday, April 25-SIA

Sunday Volunteers May 6

Visitors Center & Coffee-TNT

Head Usher-8:30 a.m.-Frank Johnston

Head Usher-11:00 a.m.-Eddy David

Lay Reader-8:30 a.m.-No Reader

Lay Reader-11:00 a.m.-Cathy Gifford

Young Disciples Lesson-8:30 a.m.-Kristen Henry

Young Disciples Lesson-11:00 a.m.-Kristen Henry

8:30 a.m. Children's Church-Kingdom Kids 11 a.m.-Julia & Kristen Henry

Counters-Betty or Howard Smith & Karen Wilder

Youth Dinner for Wednesday, May 2-Harmony Class

Please Keep In Prayer

Walter Speed, Wilbur & Jewel Williams, Mel Jones, Ryder Herring, June Horn, Ruth Weaver, Jo Nan Allen, Virginia Vice, Martha Scudder, Don Baldridge, Earl & Lora Cervantez, Cloeta Mullins, Mary Lea Forsythe, Darrell Muse, Donna Woodruff, Helen Hooper, Pastor Ray White, Bishop Hayes, Roger Nelson, and all un-spoken requests

Acknowledgements

We Offer our Prayers & Sympathy... to Maureen Gibson, Gene's wife, and the rest of the family and friends of Gene Watson who passed away last week. Continued prayers as you all go through this transition.

Thank You... Thank you so much for your kind words, hugs, cards and prayers for the last few years for my dad and family. My father said over and over again he could feel all the prayers and positive thoughts. He wanted to meet you all sometime and thank each and every one of you for everything. Thank you for the continuing prayers and messages. We will always be forever grateful.

Love, Eric, Rebecca, Kate & Sami Ward and Syinda, Tracey & Megan Fahnestock

Thank You... On behalf of the SS Community Services Board of Directors and as the SSCS Executive Director, I want to express a heart felt "Thank You" for your joyful donation of Easter baskets and candy. SSCS was able to provide parents with young children your thoughtful gift for Easter morning. Thank you again for your support. You are making a difference for those who need it most.

With Sincere Appreciation, Judy Treet

School Supply Kits

Our Mission Team is assembling School Supply Kits to be sent to foreign missions abroad. In some countries, children don't have books or school supplies. Many have no schoolrooms; classes are held in inadequate or half-destroyed buildings, tents, or even the open air. School kits may be these children's only educational resources. Below are the materials needed to assemble one kit. Nothing may be added to or subtracted from this list; the kits must conform exactly to these specifications to be accepted for shipment.

%-----

School Kit Items Needed (Cost: Approximately \$11 a kit)

- ☐ 1 pair blunt scissors-rounded tip only-no plastic scissors please
- ☐ 3 units of paper – 8 ½ x 11 spiral notebooks or top-bound pads or 150 sheets of loose-leaf can be as 1 unit. Combinations of 1 each are acceptable. Must be 8 ½ x 11-No Exceptions
- ☐ 1 Hand Held pencil sharpener-Must be at least one inch long; remove from packaging.
- ☐ 1 - 30 centimeter ruler-hard or flexible; cartoon characters are acceptable. No advertisements please.
- ☐ 6 unsharpened pencils-no advertisements, religious, patriotic, military or camouflage symbols please. Cartoons characters are acceptable.
- ☐ 1 – 2 ½ inch eraser- no advertisements, religious, patriotic, military or camouflage symbols please. Cartoons characters are acceptable.
- ☐ 1 - 24 count box of crayons-only 24 boxes please.

Remember to be thoughtful not to deviate from this list. It is important to be exact.

%-----

There is a box in the Narthex for your items. There is such a need and this project is one that anyone can get involved in but especially, if you have children... Get them involved and explain what they are doing it for.

It is never too early to prepare for missions.

You can take this list with you to the store and mark off each item as you find them.

All items need to be dropped off by Sunday, May 20th.

May 2012

Meeting Locations: Al-Anon upstairs, Ex. To Music at FLC, WW in the F. Hall, Boy Scouts are at the FLC, Needlers meet in the parlor, Weight Watchers meets downstairs, Grief Support in the parlor, Book Club in the parlor, Faith Circle in the parlor, Girl Scouts meet downstairs, Ruth Esther is in the F. Hall

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6 pm-Chancel Bells 7 pm-Al-Anon	2 7:30 am-M/W Breakfast 10 am-Exerc. To Music 6 pm-JH Youth 7 pm-SH Youth 6 pm-Praise Team 7 pm-Chancel Choir	3 4:15 pm-WW 5:30 pm-WW 5:30 pm-UMW Ex. Mtg.	4 12 pm-WW	5
6 8:30 am-Modern Worship 10 am-Small Groups 11 am-Classic Worship	7 Newsletter Week 10 am-Exerc. To Music 7 pm-Boy Scouts	8 6 pm-Chancel Bells 7 pm-Stewardship 7 pm-Al-Anon	9 7:30 am-Men's Breakfast 10 am-Exerc. To Music 6 pm-JH Youth 7 pm-SH Youth 6 pm-Praise Team 7 pm-Chancel Choir	10 11 am-Needlers 4:15 pm-WW 5:30 pm-WW <div>Boy Scouts using FLC</div>	11 12 pm-WW 6:30 pm-Grief Support	12
13 Mother's Day Teacher Recognition 8:30 am-Modern Worship 10 am-Small Groups 11 am-Classic Worship 12 pm-Dinners 4 8+	14 9 am-Margaret Hudson Bfst. 10 am-Ex. To Music 6:15 pm-Book Club 7 pm-Boy Scouts	15 6 pm-Chancel Bells 7 pm-Al-Anon	16 7:30 am-Men's Breakfast 9:30 am-SIA 10 am-Exerc. To Music 6 pm-JH Youth 7 pm-SH Youth 6 pm-Praise Team 7 pm-Chancel Choir	17 4:15 pm-WW 5:30 pm-WW 7 pm-Faith Circle	18 12 pm-WW	19 Piano Recital in Sanctuary
20 8:30 am-Modern Worship 10 am-Small Groups 11 am-Classic Worship 2:30 pm-COM 4 pm-Church Council 6 pm-Healing Service	21 Newsletter Week 10 am-Exerc. To Music 7 pm-Boy Scouts	22 6 pm-Chancel Bells 6:30 pm-Girl Scouts 7 pm-Al-Anon	23 7:30 am-Men's Breakfast 10 am-Exerc. To Music 6 pm-JH Youth 7 pm-SH Youth 6 pm-Praise Team 7 pm-Chancel Choir	24 11 am-Needlers 1 pm-Ruth Esther Cir. 4:15 pm-WW 5:30 pm-WW Youth in FLC	25 12 pm-WW 6:30 pm-Grief Support	26 7 am-24 hour Prayer Vigil
27 8:30 am-Modern Worship 10 am-Small Groups 11 am-Classic Worship 1 pm-Finance Meeting 6 pm-Youth Mission Mtg.	28 Offices Closed 10 am-Exerc. To Music 7 pm-Boy Scouts *Youth-Full balance of mission trip due today!	29 6 pm-Chancel Bells 7 pm-Al-Anon	30 7:30 am-Men's Breakfast 10 am-Exerc. To Music 3 pm-Chancel Choir to Annual Conf. 6 pm-JH Youth 7 pm-SH Youth 6 pm-Praise Team 7 pm-NO Chancel Choir	31 4:15 pm-WW 5:30 pm-WW	June 1 Wedding Reception set up	June 2 Wedding Reception

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

FLC-Family Life Center

Wednesday, April 11

7:30 a.m.-Men's Breakfast—Crescent Café
10:00 a.m.-Exercise to Music-FLC
6:30 p.m.-Youth Movie Night
6:00 p.m.-Praise Team Practice
7:00 p.m.-Chancel Choir

Thursday, April 12

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

Friday, April 13

12:00 p.m.-Weight Watchers
4:00 p.m.-Stillman Wedding Rehearsal
6:30 p.m.-Grief Support-Parlor

Saturday, April 14

12:00 p.m.-Stillman Wedding

Sunday, April 15

8:30 a.m.-Modern Worship
10:00 a.m.-Small Groups/Sunday School
11:00 a.m.-Classic Worship
1:00 p.m.-Staff Parish Meeting

2:00 p.m.-Trustee Meeting
2:30 p.m.-Council On Ministries
4:00 p.m.-Church Council

Monday, April 16

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

Tuesday, April 17

6:00 p.m.-Chancel Bell Practice
7:00 p.m.-Al Anon-Upstairs
7:30 p.m.-Young Adults meet at Cherry Berry

Wednesday, April 18

7:30 p.m.-Men's Breakfast-Crescent Café
9:00 a.m.-SIA to Broken Arrow Safari
10:00 a.m.-Exercise to Music-FLC
6:00 p.m.-JH Youth
7:00 p.m.-SH Youth
6:00 p.m.-Praise Team Practice
7:00 p.m.-Chancel Choir

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Sand Springs, OK

Permit No. 16

Estate Planning Thoughts

Good stewardship requires us to think of the future. Have your estate plan prepared now and express your good stewardship in ways that will bless your family and your church.

Return Service Requested

Kingdom Kids

Just a reminder—
you sing in both services Sunday, April
29th. You are singing "I Can Do All
Things."

Label Here