

The Springs



Rev. Don Tabberer

November 21, 2012

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"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever." (Psalm 107:1)

The Thanksgiving newsletter article should be one of the

easiest ones to write each year. We are getting ready to spend time with family and friends while eating some of the best food of the year and then watching six hours of football. The day is capped off for many by turning on the outdoor Christmas lights. What's not to be thankful for?

This year we do indeed have much for which we should be thankful. We have had a very successful year of mission and ministry in our church. Our youth and adults both went on very productive mission trips this year. They were able to share God's love with people in Illinois and Missouri. Give thanks to God that we were able to do this work!

Eighteen people have joined our congregation since last Thanksgiving. Also, there are several families visiting our church who have not yet made the decision to join. We pray for all of these people as they seek to develop their relationships with Jesus Christ and we pray that we will do our part to nurture our new friends and make them feel welcome here. We give thanks to God who brought them to us!

Yesterday morning our youth showed their enthusiasm for giving by winning the Food Drive Challenge for Restore Hope Ministries. I lost my hair in the deal, but it was worth it to see how proud our kids were at the part they played in providing food for families in need this Thanksgiving.

I am sure that if you would take a few minutes to think about the past year, you would remember many events in the life of our church that are worthy of giving our thanks and praise to God. After all, we are to give God the glory for the gifts we have been given and the methods by which we are allowed to share our gifts with others. It's not about you and it's not about me...It's all about Je-

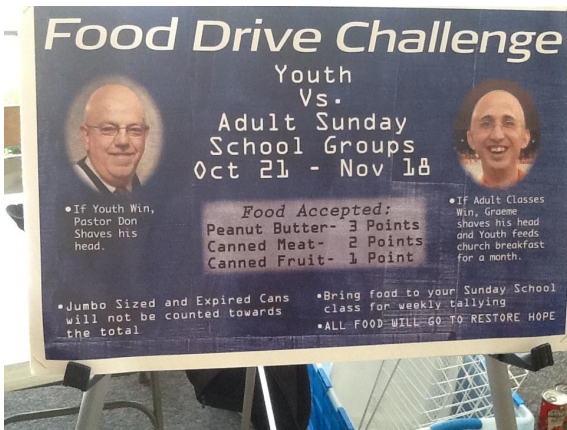
sus.

The more difficult side of the Thanksgiving newsletter article is remembering the families who face challenges during the holiday season. Eight members of our fellowship have gone on to the Church Eternal since last Thanksgiving. Many families in our church experienced loss of family and friends who were not members of our fellowship. These families are coming into the holiday season remembering the loss of a loved one even in the knowledge that they are resting with Christ now. We should be thankful for the lives lived in service to family, friends, and the church. We should also pray for those families as they learn to go through the season missing someone they love.

There are many families in our community who are coming into this season unemployed or underemployed. Many of our neighbors are not able to provide all the holiday trimmings some of us may be accustomed to. The wonderful giving that our church has done to help Restore Hope and Sand Springs Community Services will help provide many people with meals this Thanksgiving. The annual Thanksgiving Dinner delivery from our church will once again help hundreds of families celebrate this Thursday. Give thanks to God that we are blessed in ways that allow us to be a blessing to all of these who need us at this time of year.

So, you see, this was a very easy article to write. It was easy because I am so blessed to be part of this church where you do so much to share the love of Christ. I give thanks to God for all of you. Have a blessed Thanksgiving!

*Shalom,
Pastor Don*



The poster promoting the head-shaving challenge

Sand Springs Pastor Loses Hair for Restore Hope

Sand Springs United Methodist Church partnered with Restore Hope Ministries this Thanksgiving to raise awareness and to collect canned goods for the Restore Hope Food Pantry.



Pictured: Brooke Herndon, Julia Henry, Lauren Miller, Jason Cooper

SSUMC Youth Director Graeme Collett challenged the youth to bring in more canned food than the adult Sunday school classes.

To meet the challenge, a point system was devised for each type of food needed by Restore Hope. Over four Sundays, youth

and adults brought in their donations. In the end, Graeme wagered with Pastor Don Tabberer that, if the adults won the contest, he would shave his head and the youth would serve breakfast to the adults every Sunday morning for a month. If the youth won the contest, Pastor Don would shave his head. On Sunday, November 18th the results were announced and Pastor Don became newly bald. Keith Van Dyke, Chair of the Restore Hope Board, was on hand at SSUMC



Restore Hope Board President Keith Van Dyke shaves Pastor Don Tabberer's head as the pastor's wife Linda looks on.



Pastor Don Tabberer and his newly bald head. think it's important that we do something dramatic to help our youth to be enthusiastic about helping others. Losing my hair is a small price to pay."

to do the shaving. "It will grow back," Pastor Don said, "and it's for a worthy cause. I

College Students

We have goodie bags in the Narthex for our church family college students. If you have a student and their name is not on a goodie bag, please let Tracey know soon.

Remember those dreaded college finals? And you'd eat tons of snacks to keep your poor brain going? Well, we have filled the church's goodie bags and now we are going to do the TU Wesley Foundation's college students. Please bring individually wrapped snacks such as cheese crackers, pretzels, raisins, microwave popcorn, hot chocolate and cider mixes, tea-bags, gum, mints, candy... These bags will be delivered on November 30th for the TU students. There is a box in the Narthex for your donations. Be creative! The kids love them!

Thanks for helping show love to our college students and the TU Wesley Foundation kids!

SOMEONE'S PAYING, LORD....

As we thank God for all of our blessings this season, let us include all of our church's wonderful volunteers. Everywhere I look, I see people stepping up to the plate to make things happen. The Christmas Shoeboxes, the gobs of food for Restore Hope, the contributions for college student goody bags, the recent Trunk or Treat and Adult Mission Trip, wonderful bereavement dinners served to families, individual projects to make money for our apportionments, and cooking turkeys and pies, and lots and lots of work to provide homemade Thanksgiving meals for those in need, etc. etc. I could go on and on, but you get the picture.

Every week during football season, I prayed that my grandson would play his best and, most of all, not get hurt. I soon realized that, for that to happen, I needed to pray for the whole team and the coaches. Our church is like that. One person can put out a lot of effort, and our staff can work long hours, but without team effort, it is very hard to get the job done. So whether you feel your spiritual gift is to provide leadership, or to be that very valuable helper, please give thought and prayer as to how you can best be a part of God's team.

We recently took home the name of a youth, child or their leaders, to pray for during this year. I hope you have placed that name in a place that will help you remember to lift them up in prayer often. We are very blessed to have such awesome youth and children's leaders, giving our young people many ways to express their love to God and to their church. Let's keep the whole teams in our prayers.

Have a Blessed Thanksgiving. Virginia

Seniors in Action!

Can you believe that Christmas is almost here?? Jumpstart the Season by coming to our Christmas Potluck for fellowship, good food, and a GREAT SPEAKER on Wednesday, Dec. 12th at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Tulsan Brad Johnson, president of Lawn America, will present a slideshow in the sanctuary about his 4 month walk on the Appalachian Trail. His book, "Compassionate Journey", about his experiences, will be available to purchase. Mr. Johnson will eat with us, so we will have ample time to visit with

him.

Ham and drinks will be provided, so please bring your favorite Christmas side-dish or dessert to fill out the meal. We are asking \$4 per person, to cover the cost of the speaker, ham, and cost of feeding the Youth on Dec. 5th. Please let Max or Sharon Schuermann know if you plan to attend, either at church or call 918-246-9159.

UMW Reading Program

Attention Ladies who are reading for the UMW Reading Program! It's time to record the books read for 2012, and see what areas you might need to finish the requirements. You have until December 15, 2012 to complete and turn in to me. I will be sending our Unit's report to the Tulsa District by December 31, 2012. You may count books read from the lists of 2007-2012, as long as not counted before, no matter what year you read the book. Note that there are 5 categories to read and record at least one book from each. The new area is Leadership and the color code for those books are pink stickers. We have several in our shelf. Don't forget to read *Response* and *New World Outlook Magazines*. Congratulations and thanks to Linda Woodward, Barbara Fisher, Joyce McFall, and Judy Bullard for completing theirs!

Operation Christmas Child



Thank you to the congregation for your generosity in giving shoe box gifts for Operation Christmas Child. We surpassed last years totals.

This year as a church we collected 205 shoe boxes (last year we collected 176) and as a relay center, we collected 520!

Great Job Congregation!

Thank you!

Sunday Lists

Sunday Volunteers November 25

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.-Janet Parker

Lay Reader-11:00 a.m.-Linda Tabberer

Young Disciples Lesson-8:30 a.m.-Marty David

Young Disciples Lesson-11:00 a.m.-Marty David

Child. Church-8:30 a.m.-Kingdom Kids 11:00 a.m.-
Marty David & Trish House

Counters-Diana Pond 7 Jack Vest

Youth Dinner for Wednesday-November 21-No Youth

Sunday Volunteers December 2

Visitors Center & Coffee-Searchers

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

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

Lay Reader-8:30 a.m.-TBA

Lay Reader-11:00 a.m.-TBA

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

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

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

Counters-Betty or Howard Smith & Karen Wilder

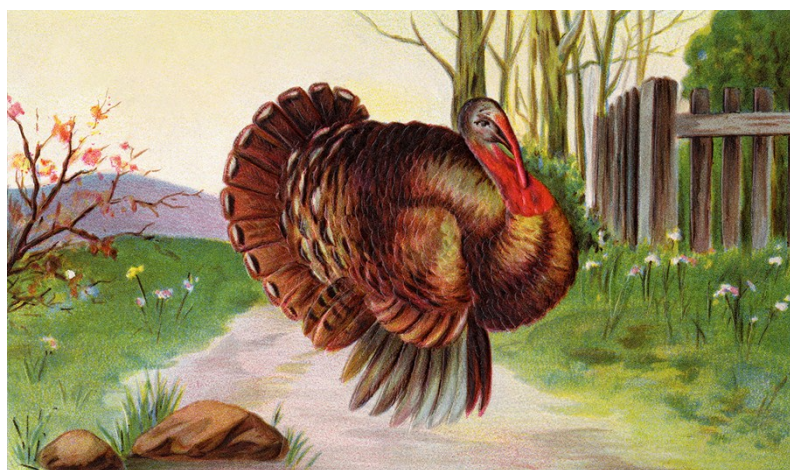
Youth Dinner for Wednesday-November 28-Ruth Esther

Please Keep In Prayer

Martha Scudder, Wilbur & Jewel Williams, Ryder Herring, Ruth Weaver, Jo Nan Allen, Virginia Vice, Donna Woodruff, Mary Lea Forsythe, Phil Cearley, Cathy Hula, Wildfire victims, Mark Nicholson, Elizabeth Taylor, Destinee Tackett, Sylvia Johnson, William Scott, Catie McGoldrick, Gerrie Holladay, Don Baldrige, Clinton Wilson

Acknowledgements

Happy Thanksgiving From the SSUMC Staff



Rev. Don Tabberer

Alan Parker

Graeme Collett

Tracey Ginn

Judy Hopper

Cathy Gifford

Glenna Stockard

Sara Ashton and the nursery workers

Crumbs From The Cracker

News:

the Awakening Vision:

"To Stretch the Church and to Redeem the un-Churched all to Glorify God"

Thank you!

On behalf of the youth ministry and all our students, I would like to say a special "Thank You" to all of you who were able to help contribute to our Youth Lead, Youth Planned, and Successfully Youth Executed food drive! Our youth were challenged in the **month of September** to come up with a program that carried out the **mission of the youth program** which is: **"To STRETCH the Church and to REDEEM the un-Churched all to GLORIFY God."** Many ideas were brainstormed and the first one that they choose to put into action was the **Youth Vs. Adults Canned food drive to benefit Restore Hope!** Our church did a wonderful job in **raising over 900 cans or jarred food in 5 weeks!** Great job **students!** Great job **church!** Thank you so much for your **support of our students!** AND, **Pastor Don, Thank you** for your willingness to loose your hair for others to have **full stomachs!**

Summer Youth Mission Trip 2013 Meeting:

Parents of youth interested in going on the mission trip for 2013... please come and join us for a brief information meeting on next years youth mission trip. **Join us on November 26th @7pm in the Caleb House!** We have **20 spots** available at this point and with a **\$25 dollar deposit you can reserve your spot!** Feel free to **bring your deposit** to the meeting and sign up early!

Operation Christmas Child Boxes:

Hey youth!!! Great job!!!! **We filled 47 boxes** that will be shipped across the world!! Proud of you guys!

Blue Devils Basketball Season!

Parent & Youth church basketball league meeting **November 29th @ 7:30pm.** If you are interested in playing, please attend this meeting. If you are unable to attend, please contact me ASAP to get paper work filled out! Thanks!

Youth To Six-Flags

If you are a youth and want to join us on our trip to **Six Flags "Holliday In The Park"** we are having a parent/youth meeting in the Caleb House @ 7pm on December 4th. **The deposit is due @ the meeting on December 4th of \$55.00.** Please don't hesitate to call if you have any

questions! Thanks!

Upcoming Dates:

- **November 20th - Restore Hope Mission 6:30pm-8:30pm (Join us!)**
- **November 21st Youth Help Debone Turkeys! (10am-12pm) Ill buy pizza after!**
- **November 21st No youth @ night**
- **November 26th - Parent/Youth Mission 2013 Meeting!!! (Deposit \$25 Reserve Your Spot)**
- **November 28th - Christmas Card Mission!**
- **November 29th - Parent & Youth Basketball Meeting 7:30pm**
- **November 30th - Graeme Goes To Youth Academy**
- **December 4th - Six Flags Parent Youth Meeting @ 7pm (\$55 Deposit Due)**

(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: "The official State Meal of Oklahoma is chicken fried steak, fried okra, squash, cornbread, barbecue pork, biscuits, sausage and gravy, grits, corn, strawberries, black eyed peas and pecan pie."



Kidzone

Parents, the children are practicing their Christmas program during Kingdom Kids on Sunday morning. We need them in practice as much as possible. Kingdom Kids begins at about 9am. If you have any questions please see Marty or Debbie.

Ms. Marty was ill on Sunday and we sure did miss her. We made cards for her and we hope she feels better soon!

Have and safe and Happy Thanksgiving! We'll see you Sunday.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

FLC-Family Life Center

Wednesday, November 21

7:30 a.m.-Men's Breakfast—Crescent Café
10:00 a.m.-Exercise to Music-FLC
10:00 a.m.-Youth de-bone turkey-FLC
6:00 p.m.-NO Praise Team Practice
7:00 p.m.-NO Chancel Choir

Thursday, November 22-Happy Thanksgiving!

Offices Closed

19th Annual SS Community Thanksgiving Delivery Program

Friday, November 23

Offices Closed

12:00 p.m.-Weight Watchers-F. Hall

Saturday, November 24

No Activities

Sunday, November 25

8:30 a.m.-Modern Worship
10:00 a.m.-Sunday School
11:00 a.m.-Classic Worship
1:00 p.m.-Finance Committee Meeting
6:00 p.m.-Hanging of the Greens

Monday, November 26

10:00 a.m.-Exercise to Music-FLC
6:30 p.m.-Bible Study-F. Hall
7:00 p.m.-Youth Mission Meeting
7:00 p.m.-Boy Scouts 101-FLC

Tuesday, November 27

6:00 p.m.-Girl Scout Leader Meeting-F. Hall
6:30 p.m.-5-6 Grade Parent/Student information meeting
7:00 p.m.-Al-Anon-Upstairs

Wednesday, November 28

7:30 p.m.-Men's Breakfast-Crescent Café
10:00 a.m.-Exercise to Music-FLC
6:30 p.m.-Youth Christmas Card Mission
6:00 p.m.-Praise Team
7:00 p.m.-Chancel Choir

Thursday, November 29

4:15 & 5:30 p.m.-Weight Watchers- F. Hall
6:00 p.m.-Bells
7:30 p.m.-Youth Basketball Meeting-Parlor

Friday, November 30

12:00 p.m.-Weight Watchers-F. Hall
7:00 p.m.-Sand Springs Christmas Parade

Sand Springs UMC

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