

# The Springs



Rev. Don Tabberer

December 3, 2012

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*"For nothing will be impossible with God."* (Luke 1:37)

Yesterday morning in worship we began our Advent series: *"I Believe Even*

*When..."* This series is inspired by an anonymous poem discovered during the liberation of Nazi prison camps after World War II. Someone who went through The Holocaust wrote these words:

I believe in the sun; I believe in the sun;  
even when, even when it's not shining.

I believe in love; I believe in love;  
even when, even when I don't feel it.

I believe in God; I believe in God;  
even when, even when God is silent.

These haunting words tell us that, even in the midst of unimaginable horror, someone was able to find hope and peace because of their faith in God. As we go through the season of Advent this year we will explore how we can find hope and help others find it in the midst of the dark places that often surround our own lives.

Advent is a season of preparation. It is a time for us to examine our lives and seek to meet the newborn King no matter where we may find ourselves. This time of year reminds us of God's grace and the immense love God shows us by sending his Son to live and teach among us.

You will hear the words of this poem sung during our Advent worship services this year as we seek to remember that, no matter what darkness and despair may come into our lives, our faith must remain strong. Jesus will hold us up, from the manger to the cross, and God's grace will heal us.

This is a season rich in symbolism and steeped

in tradition. As you look around our church you will find images that recall the anticipation of an empty manger; the joy of Good News proclaimed by angels; and even the foreshadowing of sacrifice upon the cross. Music and imagery will help to guide us through this wonderful season of anticipation as we await the arrival of Jesus.

This is the perfect time for you to encourage friends and family who may have gotten out of the habit of "church" to start coming back. There are many reasons why people stop attending church regularly or leave altogether. Sometimes church reminds them of someone they have lost; sometimes they feel they have been away too long to return; there may be misunderstandings or hurt feelings; there may be anger or disappointment. Whatever the reason people have drifted away, it is important that we encourage them to realize that church is precisely the place they need to be when they find themselves in a dark place. It is here they will find grace, healing, and comfort.

The **"I Believe"** verse we are inspired by this season ends with these words: ***"I believe in the Light, I believe in the Light, that has come, that has come, and is coming."*** This Advent season we are encouraged by the belief that God's Light will penetrate whatever darkness our world can create for itself and whatever dark place that we may wander into. This season we seek the grace of God to forgive us when we have contributed to the darkness in another person's life and to lead us out of the darkness of this world into the Light of Christ. We pray that your journey this season will bring you to the manger where you will find a deeper relationship with Jesus and that you will believe, even when...

*Shalom,  
Pastor Don*



### 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.

### Exodus House Resident Christmas List

Many of you have met Theresa Rosales and have learned about all of her great accomplishments since her move into the Exodus House. She has provided us with a Christmas list of the following:

*Pair of size 7 1/2 women's work boots*

*A small DVD player*

*Cutting board*

*Dish Drying Rack*

*Egg Pan*

*PlayStation III (Dream list!)*

If anyone is looking for a cat, she has 3 that she needs to be adopted, and two that need foster homes until her graduation from the Exodus House Program.

If you would like to give any of the items listed or Christmas Cards, please see Olivia Tackett. All items need to be wrapped and delivered to the church or to Olivia Tackett no later than December 22nd so they can be delivered in time for Christmas. A tax receipt is available from Tracey with proof of purchase.

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

As I was looking for a devotion to give at a program this week, I was remembering what a beautiful worship service of Hope that we had for our first Sunday in Advent. As we are also preparing for the rush of the Christmas Season, while remembering those who are hurting because Christmas will never be the same without a lost loved one, this poem/prayer jumped out at me. Virginia Baldrige

#### **Christmas Hush**

*May the quietness of Christmas,  
The calm and holy hush  
Of that first advent season,  
Still our Christmas rush.*

*May our memories of the manger  
Reassure us, ease the stress  
Of troubled hearts in troubled times  
With His peace and quietness.*

### Campbell Soup Labels

Louise Read is still collecting Campbell Soup labels. Save up a few labels then turn them in to Louise. She can give you more details but start saving now!

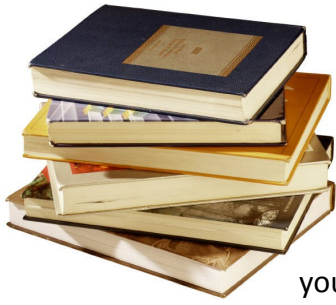


### New Grief Support Group

A new group will meet on December 9th at 3 p.m. in the parlor. If you have lost a loved one recently and are dreading the holidays without that special someone, then this group is for you. It will be led by Leah Bradley, counselor with Good Shepherd Hospice. For more information, call Judy Bullard-918-241-6890.

### New Group Forming

If you have served as a missionary in another country full time or on VIM, then this group is for you! We would like to get together and share our experiences. For more information, call Judy Bullard.



## 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 De-

cember 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!

## Late Night Catechism

### Do you Need a Comedy Night Out!

If you enjoy humor then you'll love Late Night Catechism 3. It's a 2 hour, one woman stand-up comedy show you won't want to miss! Living Water United Methodist Church is hosting the famous "Late Night Nun" and her hilarious catechism class. This would be a wonderful group outing! The show is February 15th at Boston Avenue UMC in Jubilee Hall at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$30 for General Admission and \$45 for the limited number of Teacher's Pets on the first three rows. Clips from the show are on YouTube if you want to get a sneak peek!

For those of you who don't know, Living Water UMC is a new church plant in the Glenpool area and they are currently in the process of raising money for start-up costs for their new congregation. Proceeds from this show will help them get started by benefitting the United Methodist New Church Plant Fund. Ten percent of ticket sales will be tithed to the Eastern Oklahoma Community Food Bank.

If you are interested in tickets to the show contact Amy Miller, 918-245-3076.



## Mission Morsels

Our church is starting a winter clothing drive for **Child SHARE** which is a ministry focusing on foster care of children under Oklahoma United Methodist's Circle of Care. Child SHARE is in need of winter clothing for children ages 2-8 who are in foster care. Items needed include long-sleeved shirts, long pants, sweaters, and winter pajamas. Child SHARE has already received plenty of coats for the children and another church recently held an undergarments drive for them. So, the biggest needs remaining are shirts, pants, sweaters, and pjs. We will run this drive through the end of January. As items come in, Jami can take them over to Candace Morton at Child SHARE.



**Restore Ho! Ho! Hope** (another Oklahoma United Methodist ministry serving those in need) could use a few things for their kitchen also. They are getting low on tea towels, knives, and silverware. So, we will start a drive for them as well. This will also run through the end of January and we can send items with our fellow members who volunteer at Restore Hope as items come in.

If you could bring an item or two for these causes, it would be such a blessing! Look for boxes in the Narthex or in the hallway to Caleb House to deposit your contributions. As always, if you would rather make a cash contribution to either of these ministries, they would greatly appreciate that as well. Please contact Jami Warkentin with questions 918.246.0359 or [gopokes93@gmail.com](mailto:gopokes93@gmail.com). Thanks!

## Sunday Lists

### Sunday Volunteers    December 9

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.-Cathy Gifford

Young Disciples Lesson-11:00 a.m.-Cathy Gifford

Child. Church-8:30 a.m.-Kingdom Kids   11:00 a.m.-  
Susie Honeycutt & Family

Counters-Sondra Bogert & Dick Ford

Youth Dinner for Wednesday-Dec. 5-SIA

### Sunday Volunteers    December 16

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.-Jami Warkentin

Young Disciples Lesson-11:00 a.m.-Amy Miller

8:30 a.m. Children's Church-Kingdom Kids   11 a.m.-Amy  
& Lauren Miller

Counters-Sheree Buttler & Jami Warkentin

Youth Dinner for Wednesday-Dec. 12-No Meal

## Please Keep In Prayer

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

## Acknowledgements

### ***We Offer our Prayers and Sympathy...***

*...to David Allen and Family for the loss of their dear Jo Nan. She passed away on December 1st and will have a funeral service Wednesday, December 5th.*

### ***Thank You...***

*Thank you to all that brought snacks for the College Goodie Bags. Please pray for all our students studying for finals this week.*

### ***New Years Resolutions***

*Are you working on yours? The Nurture & Care Committee is looking for a new coordinator for the "meals to members after a hospital stay." No cooking is involved. We already have 4 or 5 teams to do that. You just need to be able to make phone calls and keep in touch with the hospital list. For more information, call Joyce McFall at 918-245-2986 or Judy Bullard at 918-241-6890. We also need volunteers to take the meals at night and to our members that live in Tulsa, as most of our ladies that take the meals do not drive at night or do not feel comfortable driving in Tulsa by themselves.*



## Crumbs From The Cracker

### News:

#### **the Awakening Vision:**

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

#### **Summer Youth Mission Trip 2013 Meeting:**

We have **20 spots** available at this point for **students** and **8 spots for parents**. With a **\$25 dollar deposit**, you can **re-serve your spot!** Feel free to **bring your deposit** to the office or youth on Wednesday night! Sign up quick! Spots are filling up!

#### **Blue Devils Basketball Season!**

Our first Blue Devil basketball game is January 5<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Youth Go 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 4<sup>th</sup>. **The deposit of \$55 is due** @ the meeting. Please don't hesitate to call if you have any questions! Thanks!

#### **Youth Teachings:**

Our youth have been going through a book on Sunday called **"Christian Atheist."** It is a book that is really challenging our students faith and whether they **"believe in God, but live as though he doesn't exist."** To start off the new year, they will also be challenged with a **2part series, "Search & Rescue"** focused on them **sharing their faith** and really **reaching out** to those in their schools who may not know Jesus through **their testimony!**

#### **Upcoming Dates:**

- December 4<sup>th</sup>- Six Flags Parent Youth Meeting @ 7pm (\$55 Deposit Due)
- December 5<sup>th</sup>- Youth Go To Rhema Lights & Starbucks! Be @ church @ 6pm (No Meal)
- December 12<sup>th</sup>- Youth Christmas Party!!!! @630pm (\$5 Dirty Santa Gift) (Fancy Christmas Sweater Optional)
- December 14<sup>th</sup> – TBA
- December 16<sup>th</sup>- Christmas Concert (Youth Performing) 6pm
- December 19<sup>th</sup>- Youth Go Christmas Caroling!
- December 20<sup>th</sup>- 22<sup>nd</sup>- Six Flags
- December 26<sup>th</sup>- No Youth
- January 2<sup>nd</sup>- No Youth

(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](mailto:gcollett@sandspringsumc.org))

**Fun Fact:** Alabama was the first state to recognize Christmas as an official holiday, and the tradition began in 1836.



## **Kingdom Kids Performing!**

What better way to kick off Christmas then children singing the joys of Christmas!?

This Sunday, December 9th at 6:00 p.m., the Kingdom Kids will perform the musical, *"All I Want for Christmas"* by Dennis & Nan Allen. The children have worked hard and would love to have you come enjoy an evening of entertainment and joy!  
You are also invited afterwards to enjoy Birthday Cake for Jesus in the F. Hall.

## **Kidzone**

Hey, kids! Don't forget that we will practice for our Christmas program on Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, from 10am-12pm. We will eat pizza after practice. If possible wear your toy costumes.

The children would like to invite the entire congregation to their Christmas musical, All I Want for Christmas, at 6pm on Sunday, December 9th. This musical is sure to get you in the spirit and has a



wonderful message for all ages about the true meaning of Christmas. We will have Happy Birthday cake for Jesus following the program.

We continue our Gift of Advent lesson series during small group time.

See you Saturday AND Sunday!

**SSUMC Adults Musical Program**  
*Sunday, December 16*  
*6 p.m.*

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### FLC-Family Life Center

#### Wednesday, December 5

7:30 a.m.-Men's/Women's Breakfast—Crescent Café  
10:00 a.m.-Exercise to Music-FLC  
10:00 a.m.-Jo Nan Allen funeral service  
6:00 p.m.-Youth to Rhema Bible College  
6:00 p.m.-Praise Team Practice  
7:00 p.m.-Chancel Choir

#### Thursday, December 6

11 a.m.-Needlers  
4:15 & 5:30 p.m.-Weight Watchers— F. Hall  
6:00 p.m.-Bells  
6:30 p.m.-Faith Circle

#### Friday, December 7

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

#### Saturday, December 8

10:00 a.m.-Kingdom Kids Rehearsal

#### Sunday, December 9

8:30 a.m.-Modern Worship  
10:00 a.m.-Sunday School  
11:00 a.m.-Classic Worship  
3:00 p.m.-Grief Support-Parlor

6:00 p.m.-Kingdom Kids Program

#### Monday, December 10

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

#### Tuesday, December 11

6:00 p.m.-Girl Scout Leader Meeting-F. Hall  
7:00 p.m.-Stewardship Meeting  
7:00 p.m.-Al-Anon-Upstairs

#### Wednesday, December 12

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, December 13

11:00 a.m.-Needlers  
TBA-Ruth Esther Circle  
4:15 & 5:30 p.m.-Weight Watchers— F. Hall  
6:00 p.m.-Bells

#### Friday, December 14

12:00 p.m.-Weight Watchers-F. Hall  
6:30 p.m.-Youth Activity to be announced

#### *Sand Springs UMC*

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*Family Life Center: 918-245-3725*

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