

The Springs

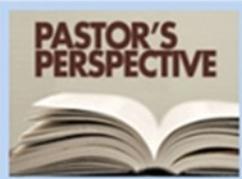


Rev. Don Tabberer

January 16, 2013

In This Edition of the SPRINGS

- From the Pastor
- Seniors In Action
- Bereavement Teams
- Restore Hope Needs
- Someone's Praying
- Child Share
- 5th & 6th Gr. SS Class
- Bridal Shower
- Bible Study
- Music Ministry
- Circle Meetings
- Sunday Lists
- Prayer List
- Acknowledgements
- The Awakening
- KidZone
- Chili Supper
- Calendar



"Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' In tithes and offerings." (Malachi 3:8)

This verse is only part of what God has to say about faithful giving. It is a topic that is covered extensively in Scripture. Today I mention it as we begin a new year because I want to remind all of us of a couple of very important subjects.

Our Finance Chair, Kent Warkentin, recently sent out a couple of letters to our members about faithful giving and the impact it has on the church's ability to do mission and ministry. Last fall we engaged in a stewardship campaign seeking to increase giving in 2013. Many of you turned in generous pledge cards that give me the opportunity to say, **"Thank You!"** for your generosity. I am looking forward to the coming year as the pledges you have made begin to bear fruit in our church.

I also want to take a minute to remind you that our **"Time to Give"** capital campaign ends in August 2013. This will be a major milestone for our church as we realize the results of this campaign and see how close we are to being able to make the payment that comes due in mid-September. This note is for the land at our South Campus where the Family Life Center is located. Whatever remains due on this property after we make our payment will need to be re-financed as we go forward with planning for Phase Two of the project.

Now is the time to be sure that you are meeting your pledge to this campaign. It is also the time to prayerfully consider if you are able to increase your offering to this project. This may be an opportunity for people who are newer in our congregation to become involved in this project even though you were not here when the campaign started. This project represents the future

of our congregation. The sooner we can pay for and complete the new campus, the sooner we can move out of our current facilities where costly maintenance and repair projects continue to rob us of funds that could otherwise be used in ministry.

Finally, I want to say a bit about our general attitude toward tithes and offerings. God clearly expects us to be generous and faithful with the resources God has given us. Nothing we have comes to us out of our own personal creation. Everything we have and all that we are comes from God and belongs to God; we are simply borrowers and caretakers. God asks us to give back the full tithe – 10% of our income – so that it may be used for the mission and ministry of the church. The tithe is used to provide people, facilities, and supplies that enable us to teach, to do mission, to worship, and to help people come to Christ in a personal relationship. Without this basic giving the church cannot function as it is called to function.

"Offerings" is another term that we read in Scripture that is always placed as something **additional** to our tithe. Our offerings are gifts that we give to ministry above and beyond our basic tithe. When we are asked to make an offering for a particular project or cause, it is understood that this is not to be subtracted from our basic tithe.

2 Corinthians 9:7 says: *"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."* What this means is that we should not have to be coerced or begged to offer our gifts to God. If you have money that you intend to give to the church and you wait until someone comes to beg you for it, you are holding the church hostage to your ego. This is not "cheerful" giving.

*Grace and peace,
Pastor Don*

Seniors In Action

Happy New Year! It's 2013!! (The Mayans were wrong, of course!) Let's get together and celebrate the gift of another year together on this good earth—another year to do God's work, and enjoy each other's company! We'll meet in the Fellowship Hall at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, January 23rd for a potluck meal and a New Jack Frank video about Tulsa's history. Soups and drinks will be provided. Please bring anything that will compliment the soups or bring a dessert. Questions? Talk to Max or Sharon Schuermann or call us at 918-246-9159.

Bereavement Teams Being Updated

Mona Warren and Virginia Baldrige are in the process of updating our Bereavement Lists. We would love to have new people become a part of one of our four teams. We rotate teams to serve a lunch at the Fellowship Hall or Family Life Center for the family on the day of a Memorial Service. It's one of our "feel good" ministries because it is so appreciated by the family. If you would like to learn more about our Bereavement Teams, or if you would like to be added to our list, please let us know. Also, let us know if you are on one of our lists, but feel you cannot serve at this time and would like to be removed.

Restore Hope is in Need

Restore Hope is an Oklahoma United Methodist Ministry that takes care of people in need. It has served our community and surrounding communities and served them well! They are low on tea, towels, knives and silverware. You have until the end of January to drop off items for this project. Look for the box in the Narthex or by the Sanctuary.

Someone's Praying, Lord.....

Let us all pray fervently for our church, our staff and our church family during 2013. Let us see God's work at hand as we are reaching 100 years of Methodism in Sand Springs next year. Let us work even harder this year to make a difference in the lives of people in our

church, our community and around the world. Let us listen, as we pray, to God's call on our lives as we reach out to be His church. It will be amazing to see what God can do if we pray together for His Will for SSUMC this year. Happy Praying New Year! Virginia

Must Read-Child Share

The Oklahoma United Methodist Circle of Care is in need of winter clothing for children ages 2-8. Items needed are long-sleeved shirts, long pants, sweaters, and winter pajamas. They have plenty of coats and undergarments. We have until the end of January to make a difference. Items can be dropped off anytime the doors are open. Look for the box in the Narthex or by the Sanctuary.

5th & 6th Grade Class

As of January 6th, SSUMC has started a new 5th & 6th grade class for students who are excited and ready to "Encounter" God in new and hip ways! Our class meets Sunday mornings @ 10:00am in the Caleb House in the first classroom! Come and join us for exciting scripture studies! Please contact Amy Miller or Graeme Collett if you have any questions about our new class! Hope to see ya! Bring a friend!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A

BRIDAL SHOWER

IN HONOR OF

Rebecca Ward

And

Joe Alvarez

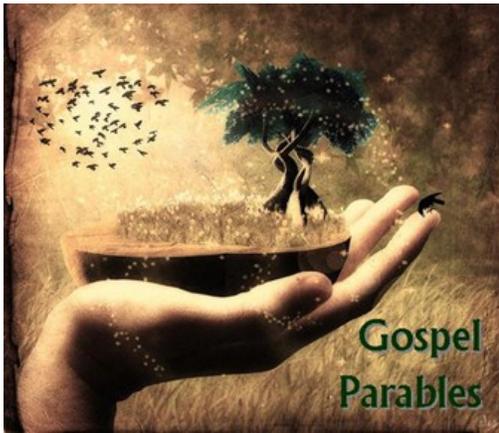
To be held on

Saturday, February 2 at 2 p.m.

Sand Springs UMC at 4th & Main

Please RSVP by January 26th to Sondra (918-269-5354), Judy (918-408-6973), Gerri (918-245-2608) or Marty (918-245-4792).

They are registered at Dillard's, Amazon.com, and Bed, Bath & Beyond



NEW BIBLE STUDY GROUP

According to Mark 4:34, Jesus always taught in parables. These stories and ex-

amples were not always easy to understand, and the disciples had to ask Jesus to explain them. “*Gospel Parables*” is a ten-session small group study designed to help us better understand Jesus’ teaching for the 21st Century. It is difficult for us to translate the rich imagery of the parables into our context; we simply do not share the same cultural experience of the original hearers of Jesus’ words.

Almost all of the Gospel parables are found in the Lectionary and they have become familiar to regular church-goers. However, our familiarity with these stories often causes us to tune them out because we think we already know what the story is about. We need to try to lay aside previous interpretations and hear each parable with fresh ears, letting God’s Word speak its mystery anew.

We will study ten of the best-loved parables using critical biblical study methods. This will ensure that we avoid the pitfall of thinking that parables can mean whatever we want them to mean. We will attend particularly to the question of how these parables could be invitations to good news for the poorest of Jesus’ hearers, both then and now. If the interpretations we arrive at give comfort to the afflicted and afflict the comfortable, chances are we are on the right track toward understanding what Jesus said.

You may choose to attend this class on **Monday evenings at 6:30 PM OR on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 AM**. Classes begin the week of February 4th and will run for ten weeks. Cost for the course materials is only \$5.00 per person. Please contact the Church Office at 918-245-5955 for further information or to register for class.

Music Ministry Musings

Do you have a visual impairment that makes it difficult for you to read the screens in the sanctuary during worship? If so, we would like for you to know that we are now producing a large-print worship sheet with the worship order and all of the words to the songs, responsive readings, and other congregational worship elements. These worship sheets are available on the counter to the side of the welcome desk where the hearing assistance devices are checked out. They are available for both the modern and classic worship services.

Do you love to sing? Would you like to learn to ring? The Chancel Choir is looking for a few good men (and women) and the Chancel Ringers need a few more players. The only requirement for Chancel Choir is that you love to sing and have fun with a wonderful family of people worshiping God. For the Chancel Ringers it's the same thing but you also need to have some basic music reading skills (mainly the ability to read rhythm.) The Chancel Ringers rehearse on Wednesdays from 6:00 to 7:00 pm and the Chancel Choir rehearses on Wednesdays from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. Now, as we are starting the new year, it is the perfect time to join in the fun. If you are interested or want to know more, please give me a call at the church or talk to me on Sunday. We have lots of fun making music and growing together spiritually. We would love to have you join us!

Alan

UMW Circle Meetings

Monday, January 22-7:00 p.m.
Priscilla Circle-Home of Virginia Baldrige

Thursday, January 24-1:00 p.m.
Ruth Esther Circle-Fellowship Hall

Thursday, January 24-7:00 p.m.
Faith Circle-Parlor

Sunday Lists

Sunday Volunteers January 20

Visitors Center & Coffee-CIA/Pathfinders

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

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

Young Disciples Lesson-8:30 a.m.-Jami Warkentin

Young Disciples Lesson-11:00 a.m.-Jami Warkentin

Child. Church-8:30 a.m.-Kingdom Kids
11:00 a.m.-Jami Warkentin & Kat Katzung

Counters-Sheree Buttler & Jami Warkentin

Youth Dinner for Wednesday-Jan. 16-CIA/Pathfinders

Sunday Volunteers January 27

Visitors Center & Coffee-CIA/Pathfinders

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

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

Young Disciples Lesson-8:30 a.m.-Janet Parker

Young Disciples Lesson-11:00 a.m.-Janet Parker

Children's Church-8:30 a.m.-Kingdom Kids
11 a.m.-Katherine Reeves & Julie Ferguson

Counters-Janie Moore & Kent Warkentin

Youth Dinner for Wednesday-Jan. 23-TNT Class

Please Keep In Prayer

Martha Scudder, 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, Clinton Wilson, Margaret Pyeatt, Irene Stogsdill, Jack-Howard Smith's cousin, Larry & Don Fisher-Connie's brothers, Carl Welch-Carrol Hamner's brother, Jason & Natalie Mickels, David Wells Family

Acknowledgements

To all the Church Family:

Our family wants to express thanks for all the prayers and expressions of concern during Jo Nan's long illness and since her death. We received hundreds of cards, phone calls and visits from many of you during her long ordeal.

We want to express a special thanks to Trish House for her many hours of effort in coordinating the visiting resources for Jo Nan. They are all very special people and ministered to all our needs over and over. God Bless you all! Thanks also to Rev. Don, Alan and Judy for the very uplifting memorial service.

With Much Love and Appreciation, David Allen & Family

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:

Did you miss the sign up date for our summer youth mission trip 2013? Its not to late! Spots are filling up quick for students! Don't forget to sign up for the youth mission trip 2013! We have 7 spots for parents and a \$25 dollar deposit will reserve your spot! Feel free to bring your deposit to the office or youth on Wednesday night! Fundraisers starting soon!

CPHS Concession Youth Mission Fundraiser:

Do you want some money towards your youth mission trip for summer 2013? Sign up and help on January 25th!

Super Bowl Subs!!!!

It is almost that time of year again! Have you got lunch plans for February 3rd yet? Our students will be making Sub Sandwiches for Super bowl Sunday! For \$6.00 you can get a Sub, Chips, Drink, and Cookies!!! What a deal!!!! We will have pre-Sub Sign up sheets in the Narthex starting January 20th! Sign up early and be ready to "Grab & Go" with no wait time!

Youth Teachings:

Last week our youth started a new series called "Search & Rescue." It is focused on helping our students develop and share their personal story of Faith. It is a 2-part evangelism based series that will give our students the tools to present their story to their peers who don't know Jesus yet! We will conclude this series with a movie that *meets teenagers where their at* called, "To Save A Life." It is a Christian based film that encourages students to reach out to those who may not have the Hope of Christ! On January 30th our students will start a new series called "The Prayer." This series will be a 5-week study on the "Lord's Prayer". During this series we are going to dig deep into the words Jesus taught His disciples, words that we say weekly, do we understand them?

Upcoming Dates:

- January 15th - Blue Devil B-Ball Practice 7pm @ FLC
- January 16th - "Search & Rescue" Series Wk 2 "You"
- January 19th - Blue Devil B-Ball Game (TBA)
- January 20th - Youth Worship Practice 6pm
- January 23rd - Youth Movie Night! 6:30pm
- January 25th - Concession Stand Fund Raiser For Youth Mission 2013 CPHS 5:30pm
- January 30th - "The Prayer" Series Starts!

(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: Milk is the official state beverage of Oklahoma.



Kidzone

We hope everyone had a great Christmas and a good beginning to the 2013! In Kidzone we are currently doing a series of lessons on the Lord's Prayer.

Part of the lesson is making a prayer chain with prayer requests. Each week we will add to the chain with new requests. It would be a great thing to ask you child what prayer requests they had during Sunday School so you can pray together as a family.

Kingdom Kids is planning to go Valentine caroling in a couple of weeks. We will send a note home with the kids when we get the details finalized. It's a fun thing that the children enjoy and it teaches them about being in service to others. If your children have not participated before, we hope they can join us this year. They always have so much fun. See you Sunday!!

CHILI SUPPER
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH
5:30PM
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

FLC-Family Life Center

Wednesday, January 16

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

Thursday, January 17

6 p.m.-FLC in use
7:00 p.m.-FLC in use

Friday, January 18

5:30 p.m.-FLC in use

Saturday, January 19

No Activities

Sunday, January 20

8:30 a.m.-Modern Worship
10:00 a.m.-Sunday School
11:00 a.m.-Classic Worship
2:30 p.m.-Council On Ministries
4:00 p.m.-Church council

Monday, January 21-Offices Closed

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

Tuesday, January 22

6:00 p.m.-FLC in use
6:00 p.m.-Girl Scouts
7:00 p.m.-Youth Basketball Practice-FLC
7:00 p.m.-Praise Team Practice
7:00 p.m.-Priscilla Circle-Virginia Baldrige's home
7:00 p.m.-Al-Anon-Upstairs

Wednesday, January 23

7:30 p.m.-Men's Breakfast-Crescent Café
10:00 a.m.-Exercise to Music-FLC
11:30 a.m.-SIA Potluck-F. Hall
6:30 p.m.-The Awakening-Youth-FLC
6:00 p.m.-Chancel Ringers
7:00 p.m.-Chancel Choir

Thursday, January 24

11:00 a.m.-Needlers
1:00 p.m.-Ruth Esther circle
6:00 p.m.-FLC in use
7:00 p.m.-Faith Circle-parlor
7:00 p.m.-FLC in use

Sand Springs UMC

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Sand Springs, OK 74063

918-245-5955 Fax-918-245-2801

Family Life Center: 918-245-3725

www.SandSpringsumc.org

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