

The Springs

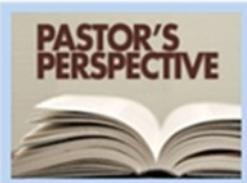


Rev. Don Tabberer

February 13, 2013

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"Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil." (Luke 4:1-2)

The Season of Lent begins this week. Ash Wednesday is February 13 and we will gather for worship at 6:30 pm for a somewhat traditional service that includes the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion. It may seem a little out of place to revive these church traditions every year in the midst of a culture that cries out for the church to be more contemporary and relevant. As I look at the world, however, I see people who are lost in the wilderness of all this relevance and are crying out for something stable to grab hold of that won't let them down. I believe that Lent offers us a wonderful opportunity to examine the culture and our place in it through the lens of our faith. In many ways, we are all lost in the wilderness and are seeking a way back.

"I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." (Isaiah 43:19) Over the next six weeks we will walk through a sermon series inspired by the film, *"The Way."* We are using this film as an inspiration for a Lenten journey that will help us to illuminate the roads and pathways of our own lives and guide us as we make our way toward the celebration of Easter. (Please understand that we are not using this film as a substitute for Scripture, or as a theological resource. We are simply taking from it the idea that our journey as human beings takes in many different ways that challenge and inspire us.)

We will begin our Lenten pilgrimage on **"The Wandering Way."** This is a place where many of us begin – wandering through a world that threatens to overwhelm our faith with its distractions and noise. It is also in this wandering that we often encounter our true selves.

"The Way Around" will help us examine how others in our lives may either illuminate or block our spiritual journey. How do we navigate this way?

We will then move to **"The High Way"** as we seek to understand that this journey is not all about us after all. God's way is different from ours in so many ways; how may we embody God's grace to others?

"The Way Home" challenges us to realize that, no matter how far from God we may find ourselves today, the way back is shorter than we can imagine.

Life throws stones in our way all the time and **"The Free Way"** is the path to avoiding some of these stones. How can we turn the stones we stumble over into stepping stones that lead to Jesus?

Finally, we will reach **"The Other Way."** It is here that we realize that the road to Jesus feels like both the end and the beginning. As we get closer to the destination of our pilgrimage, we notice yet another starting point on this road to transformation.

I pray that you will go on pilgrimage with me this Lent. For me it is always on the journey that I find time to reflect on what is going on in my life and where I should seek to improve. Pilgrimage calls us to really think about our relationship with Jesus and what we can do to make it better. Pilgrimage urges us to seek more holy ways to live our lives as children of God. **"The Way"** reminds us that, *"You don't choose a life; you live a life."*

*Grace and peace,
Pastor Don*

(The film, "The Way" is rated PG-13 and is available through Redbox and Netflix.)

Seniors In Action

Please join us for a Valentine Dinner on Friday, February 15th. Frank Slane, member of Toastmasters, will give us an entertaining talk. We have the dining room reserved at Siegi's Sausage Factory and German Restaurant. They serve wonderful German and American food, and desserts to die for! How about fresh baked apple streudel, or Austrian Sacher Torte?! The Deli stocks fresh meats, cheeses, rye bread, cookies & pastries, German salads, and of course, their fresh-made sausages.

Please meet at the church at 4 p.m. for carpooling to Siegi's, the second business south of 81st & Sheridan. SIGN UP with Max or Sharon Schuermann or call us at 245-9159.

United Methodist Women

Attention all ladies whether you're a circle or not— please come to the United Methodist Women's annual Brunch on March 2 at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall here at 4th & Main Street. Everyone matters as we share food and fellowship and if you need a nurse-ry, please let Tracey know in the office a couple of days ahead of time. Questions? Call Betty Smith at 918-245-7140.

SOMEONE'S PRAYING, LORD....

I attended a class on "Finding Time for God" last Saturday. Our leader, Rev. Susan Southall, said the title should have been "Making Time for God" because God has given us the time - we just need to make some of our time for Him. She said one way to do that is to just set aside 15 minutes a day for devotion and prayer. Our devotional booklet, The Upper Room, is a great way to start. It provides a scripture, a personal devotion, a thought for the day, and a prayer, which can all be done in ten or fifteen minutes. Each booklet contains two months of devotions.

During this Lent, I plan to give up something. I'm giving up 15 minutes a day to Make Time for God. Perhaps you would like to join me. You can find the Upper Room at the church's welcome desk. Virginia



Lifeline Screening
The results are in.

Carotid Artery Disease-27 Screened
Normal-2
Moderate-25
Atrial Fibrillation-24 Screened-24 were normal
Glucose-9 Screened
Normal-7
Pre-Diabetes-2
Lipid Panel-HDL Test-9 Screened
Protective Against Heart Disease-5
Normal-3
Risk Factor for Heart Disease-1
Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm-24 Screened & Normal
Lipid Panel-Total Cholesterol Test-9 Screened
Desirable-2
Borderline High-4
High-3
Lipid Panel-LDL Test-8 Screened
Optimal-1
Near Optimal-2
Borderline High-4
High-1
Peripheral Arterial Disease-24 Screened-23 Normal-
No account of 24th.
Lipid Panel-Triglyceride Test-9 Screened-9 normal

If this program saves one life, it is worth it.! Watch for the screenings and sign up. Other tests available are Osteoporosis, C-Reactive Protein and Liver Function. Our next date to host Life Line Screening is Thursday, May 2nd. We will inform you of how to sign up as the date gets closer. But if you are interested in the tests, mark your calendar and watch for more info.

Mark Your Calendar...

*Bridal Shower for Magen Duncan & Nick Stockard is
Saturday, March 2nd at 2 p.m.-Parlor/Narthex*

More information soon!

Re-Ignite Recap

On Saturday, February 9th, 31 of our members went to the Re-Ignite Workshop at Boston Avenue UMC. This workshop is held every year and it is a wonderful opportunity for Tulsa area United Methodist churches to share ministry ideas and learn ways to grow in our faith.

The highlight this year was the message from Bishop Robert E. Hayes. He said that the church in general is facing some of its most critical days ahead and we have to be proactive if we want our congregations to thrive. He challenged us to get something started... take a chance...get outside our church walls and offer something relevant to our communities. He then told us a story of 2 different church in similar communities. One of these churches is thriving in their community. The other was officially closed during last year's annual conference.

Leonard UMC is in the small community of Leonard in the southern part of Tulsa County. He said when he went to visit there the members of that congregation couldn't wait to show him the things they were doing to minister to the folks in their community. One ministry was a food pantry. They took a small closet/storage area and turned it into a food pantry to address the issue of hunger outside the walls of their church. He said their enthusiasm was contagious. Roff UMC is the church that closed last annual conference. It's a small community south of Ada in Pontotoc County. If you've never been inside a church that is officially closed it's a very sad thing. Everything is left where it sits when the last person locks the door for the last time. But it seems God wasn't finished with Roff yet.

The rest of the story, as Paul Harvey would say, is that two women who are sisters retired and moved back to the Roff area to be near family. They went to the doors of the church and peeked in. They saw the Bible sitting open on the pulpit, just where it was left, collecting dust. They saw that the poinsettias from the previous Christmas still sat in front of the altar. And this empty church moved them to do something. They hunted down the man with the keys to the church and opened it up. Then they began to stock it with food, baby necessities and other things that people might need. Pretty soon the Baptist church across the street gave them a check to buy more items. Now that old church building is a vital part of the Roff

community once again because two women looked outside themselves and decided to do something. And by the way, the Bishop pointed out that they didn't ask permission. They just did it. Amen! That's the challenge before Sand Springs UMC. What chances will we take? How will we be relevant in our town? How will we get outside our walls to reach people in Sand Springs?

EVANGELISM 101

Evangelism. It's a scary word. But it doesn't have to be. Did you know that most people come to church because someone invited them? That's all we need to do to be good evangelists...invite someone to church. Simple, right?

It is sometimes easier to take the next step to inviting someone to church if you have something in your hand to use as an invitation. The evangelism team wants to challenge you to take your bulletin with you each Sunday and use it as a means to invite a friend to church. It's printed with service times, the church website, phone number, staff names and other info someone would need to know in order to worship with us. It's a great evangelism tool that we all have in our hands every Sunday.

Let this be a challenge to you from the evangelism team...INVITE SOMEONE TO CHURCH ON SUNDAY! You'll be glad you did.



UMW Yearbook

The yearbook is complete and ready for pick up. I encourage all circle leaders to come by the office and pick the books up for your circle to deliver at your next meetings.

There are extra books for new women who join this year and if necessary, more books can be made. If you think you are going to be away for your next meeting, come by and get a book!

Sunday Lists

Sunday Volunteers February 17

Visitors Center & Coffee-Harmony

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.-Amy & Lauren Miller

Counters-Sondra Bogert & Dick Ford

Youth Dinner for Wednesday, Feb. 13-No Meal

Sunday Volunteers February 24

Visitors Center & Coffee-Harmony

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

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

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

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

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

Counters-Sheree Buttler & Jami Warkentin

Youth Dinner for Wednesday, Feb. 20-Priscilla Circle

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, Heidi Bostwick, Theresa Rosales, Linda Pierce, Maureen Gibson, Donna Hope, Linda McLain, Bobbie Simpson, Louise Pond, Cheryl Simms, Jeannie McClafin

Acknowledgements

Thank You...

May Kindness return to you in the same beautiful way that is was given... thank you so very much for your kindness you showed me during my illness and my new house. The ladies were kind and had a nice smile and loving heart. Pastor Don, you are a great blessing to SS. I know we will be great friends.

Norman May

Bridal Shower-Mark your calendars...

In honor of Magen Ducan & Nick Stockard a Bridal Shower is Saturday, March 2nd at 2 p.m. in the Parlor. More information to come.

Pam Mithcell

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 with a \$25 dollar deposit you can reserve your spot!** Feel free to **bring your deposit to the office or youth on Wednesday night!** **Fundraisers starting soon!**

Super Bowl Subs!!!!

Thank you sooooo much church for all of your gracious support of your youth! Our students raised over **\$600 for their mission trip through the Super Bowl Sub Mission!**

Blue Devils Vs. SSUMC Old Dudes! March 7th

Get excited for our second annual **March Madness game** starring your **SSUMC Youth Blue Devils** against our **SSUMC Old Dudes!** This is a fun event for all ages, and you get to come and support our youth who are going on a mission trip this summer to Cincinnati, OH! **The game is at 6:30pm!** Our concession will be selling (**Hot-dogs, Nachos, Popcorn, Candy, and Drinks**).

Youth Teachings:

Our students have kicked off the **"The Prayer."** This series is covering the **"Lord's Prayer"**. During this series we are going to dig deep into the **words Jesus taught His disciples.** We have done week 1 that covered Jesus' **"Pre-Game"** prayer preparations from **Matthew 6: 5-8**, week 2 we covered **"It's All About You!"** from **Matthew 6: 9-10.** This coming week our youth will be attending the **"Ash Wednesday"** service and then heading to **"Braum's" for ice cream.** The next lesson from our series is about **"Enough"** from **Matthew 6: 11.**

Upcoming Dates:

- **February 13th- Ash Wednesday & Braum's @ 6:30pm**
- **February 15th- FCA Clyde Boyd**
- **February 16th- Blue Devil Bball Game @ 5pm**
- **February 20th- "The Prayer" Wk 3 "Enough" @ 6:30pm**
- **February 23rd- Blue Devil Bball Game @ 3pm**

(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)



Kidzone

We had four children and four adults go to five homes on Sunday afternoon to go Valentine Caroling. They visited with and sang for Jewel Williams, Donna McLain Hope, Jeanne McClafflin, Roberta Rand and

Heide Bostwick. The children also delivered handmade Valentine cards and decorations to these ladies.

On Sunday, February 17, we will begin our Lenten lesson series that focuses on the events of Holy Week.

Thank you to the congregation for making children's ministry possible. Every dollar that goes into the offering plate helps supply resources to raise up a new generation in the church. We appreciate it!

See you Sunday!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

FLC-Family Life Center

Wednesday, February 13-Ash Wednesday

7:30 a.m.-Men's Breakfast—Crescent Café

10:00 a.m.-Bible Study

6:30 p.m.-Ash Wednesday

6:00 p.m.-Chancel Ringers

After Ash Wednesday Service-Chancel Choir

Thursday, February 14

10 a.m.-Exercise to Music

6 p.m.-FLC in use

7:00 p.m.-FLC in use

7:00 p.m.-Stewardship Meeting

Friday, February 15

5:00 p.m.-SIA to Siegi's

5:30 p.m.-FLC in use

7:00 p.m.-FLC in use-Boy Scout Lock In

Saturday, February 16

FLC in use until noon

Youth Basketball Game

Sunday, February 17

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, February 18-Office Closed

10:00 a.m.-Exercise to Music-FLC

6:30 p.m.-Bible Study-F. Hall

7:00 p.m.-Boy Scouts-FLC

Tuesday, February 19

6:00 p.m.-FLC in use

7:00 p.m.-Youth Basketball Practice-FLC

7:00 p.m.-Praise Team Practice

7:00 p.m.-Al-Anon-Upstairs

Wednesday, February 20

7:30 p.m.-Men's Breakfast-Crescent Café

10:00 a.m.-Bible Study-F. Hall

6:30 p.m.-The Awakening-Youth-FLC

6:00 p.m.-Chancel Ringers

7:00 p.m.-Chancel Choir

Thursday, February 21

10:00 a.m.-Exercise to Music-FLC

6:00 p.m.-FLC in use

7:00 p.m.-FLC in use

Sand Springs UMC

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www.SandSpringsumc.org

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