

The Springs



Rev. Don Tabberer

July 31, 2013

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"the Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14)

This is the great message of the

incarnation: that Jesus Christ was born into human history at just the right time for the salvation of the world. This is what we celebrate and proclaim during the joyous season of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany – The Christmas Cycle. This week we continue our series on the Liturgical Seasons. Our last newsletter talked about the green season of spiritual growth. Today it's Christmas!

It is this season of the Christian year that begins the Lectionary Cycle; we begin at the beginning with the birth of our Lord and Savior. This cycle is filled with drama, history, and theological truth. We move through a wide range of themes: from hope to joy; darkness to light; yearning to fulfillment. It is about expectation and redemption; the "already" of Christ's presence in the flesh, and the "not yet" of Christ's coming at the end of time.

Advent is both a time of thanks for the gift of Christ to us in past time and a time of anticipation of his second coming. It is a season rich in tradition, imagery, and significance. There is much variety in the way we are able to incorporate this richness into our worship services; we look for fresh new ways to express the themes

One of the most widespread and popular customs for the season is the Advent Wreath. It consists of four candles and a larger Christ candle (white) at the center. In some traditions three of the candles are purple or dark blue and the fourth is rose, symbolizing the Third Sunday of Advent (*"Gaudate"* – rejoice). The actual color is not crucial and many contemporary settings use the same color for all four of the candles in the outer ring. A candle is lighted at the beginning of the service on the First Sunday of Advent, usually by a family or other layper-

son. Then one candle is lighted on each of the next four Sundays until all four are lit. Finally, on Christmas Eve or the first service on Christmas Day, the center white candle is lighted. Many people also choose to display a small Advent wreath at home and light the candles before evening meals.

Nearly every local church and home will display a Christmas tree of one sort or another. This tradition has deep roots with a variety of legends vying for the "true meaning" of the Christmas tree and its "actual" origins. I will not argue the various versions here. One type of tree to come out of these traditions is The Chrismon Tree; this is the version we use. It involves using a variety of symbols from the genealogy of Jesus and from his life, death, and resurrection. It stands as a remembrance of the whole story and significance of Christ whose birth we celebrate at Christmas.

The rest of the worship space is decorated in simple and somber ways as we prepare ourselves for the arrival of Jesus. We are reminded of Isaiah who spoke of the people who walked in darkness waiting for the Messiah to come. The atmosphere is subdued; purple, blue and gray in rough textures are appropriate for these four weeks. Then, suddenly, on Christmas Eve we hear the proclamation: *"For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given"* and we transition to finer fabrics in gold and white; a Light has come into the world and our worship space celebrates the joy and the glory of God.

There are either one or two Sundays after Christmas. One option is to celebrate January 1, or the Sunday nearest to it, with John Wesley's Covenant Service. Another feast that may be celebrated during this period is Holy Family Sunday. When we reach The Epiphany we recall the images of the Magi, their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, and their crowns. Epiphany completes the Twelve Days of Christmas we love to sing about and it is the festival that celebrates the Word of God made flesh, honored by gifts from all peoples and nations. This Sunday completes the Christmas Cycle and you will notice the dramatic change in worship space decoration.

This season is a favorite for most people and we do our best to fill it with exciting and meaningful images and great music. We try to honor tradition while also striving to stay fresh and avoid monotony. If we change something one year, it may come back the next season. If you have ideas, please share them with us.

*May you rejoice today and every day,
Pastor Don*

Building For Life-A long life for our Church and ministry.

As we begin our new venture together, we want to honor God, who has given us everything. What can we give Him? What sacrifice can we make that would deepen our relationship with our Lord and Savior? One thing we all share and most of us have too little of is our time. Our challenge to each of you is to sacrifice your time for 60 days to read the New Testament from beginning to end. Have you ever tried that? Let's all read these pages together as the body of Christ starting Wednesday, July 31 with Matthew chapters 1-4, Thursday Matthew 5-8, Friday Matthew 9-12, Saturday Matthew 13-16 and Sunday Matthew 17-20. You can pick up a printed schedule at the church to show you what to read each day for the next two months and one is included with this newsletter. Ask God specifically to reveal himself to you as you read his Word. Please be with us as we start this spiritual journey. We Double Dog Dare Ya!

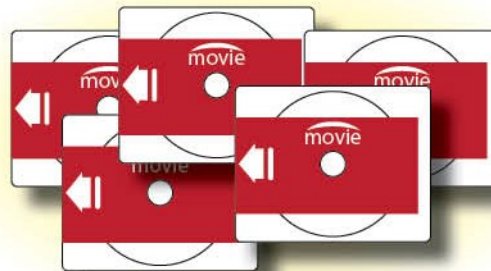
Kay & Virginia

Someone's Praying

Our Time to Give commitment is drawing to a close and now it is time for our Building for Life and Spiritual Renewal Emphasis. Our commitment three years ago was very successful and we feel it was largely due to our opportunity for Spiritual Growth. We realize that for our church to experience that growth, we must be diligent in our daily prayers. God is always faithful, but He wants our faithfulness also. We must remember that "If we will do what we can do - - God will do what we can't!" Rick Warren says to expect miracles when we are faithful to this process.

A 12-hour Prayer Vigil will be held on Saturday, August 24. We will be asking you to pray specifically for our Building for Life and Spiritual Renewal Emphasis, and that we will be faithful to God's guidance for the future of our church. With the celebration of our 100 years of Methodism in Sand Springs, let us remember that it is only the beginning of what God can do with our resources and our commitment. Mark August 24 on your calendar and join us for our Prayer Vigil. But, we hope you will start today praying daily for God to be our guide during this process. Virginia

What is \$1 a day?



or \$7 towards apportionments

A percentage of apportionment money goes to Cookson Hills Center, located in Cookson in Northeast Oklahoma, which provides outreach ministries to low-income families in Cherokee, Adair and Sequoyah counties. The Senior Nutrition Program serves meals and provides opportunities for fellowship, spiritual support, learning, crafting and health screening. The Center also provides a computer lab and programs for children and youth.



Grief Support Group

The next meeting for the Grief Support Group at the United Methodist Church will meet on August 11th, Sunday, at 3:00 pm in the Parlor. Those who have lost loved ones and are struggling through the grief process will find this group helpful. Our leader is Leah Bradley with Good Shepherd Hospice. We are using the series by Doug Manning.

The Support Group for the **Visually Limited** will meet at 10:00 am on August 19th, Monday, in the Fellowship Hall. The speaker will be a surprise. If you need a ride please call Gerrie Holladay at 918-245-4567.

Mission Morsels

Please bring school supplies to help local school children. Collection boxes are in the church Narthex. All donations will be taken to Restore Hope where they will distribute the supplies to families needing help. Additionally, Sandy at Restore Hope has requested one subject spiral notebooks in particular. They are having trouble getting those this year. Guess what?! They are only 17 cents at Target (at the back of the store in the large school supply area). What a deal! Not to plug Target, but, Hey, you need to know where to find them cheap!!! J



We need you! Saturday, August 10th will be our next Helping Hands ministry. We meet at the fellowship hall at 7:30 a.m. and head out to work from 8:00-noon. We would like to have enough people to send a group to Restore Hope to pack up school supplies from 9:00-noon and another group or two to work on small home maintenance type projects for a few individuals. If you can help, please sign up in the Narthex, comment on our Facebook page – Helping Hands – Sand Springs UMC, or contact Buster Hall at jbusterhall@yahoo.com or 918.851.9982 or Jami Warkentin at gopokes93@gmail.com or 918.260.6574.

Pickett Chapel United Methodist Church

Is hosting an Indian Taco Fund-Raiser Dinner Saturday, August 3 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 17610 South Hickory in Sapulpa. The price for tacos is \$7 for adults and \$3.50 for children. All the proceeds go to help with Church expenses and your support is much appreciated. For questions, directions... call Larry at 918-729-2667 or June at 918-752-6139.

T'ai Chi Chih Classes-Joy Through Movement

Angus Acres Baptist Church is offering a series of 20 easy-to-learn movements that are performed gently, slowly, and effortlessly. It does not require special clothing or equipment. It strengthens bones and improves balance, coordination, flexibility and physical fitness. It helps control weight, stimulates creativity and a sense of well being, increases energy and mental clarity, and helps align body, mind and spirit and is for ALL ages and enjoyable to perform. The classes will be offered on Wednesdays from 10 to 11 a.m. and they start September 11th. Angus Acres is located at 4401 S. 129th W. Ave. You can call Barbara Dinehart to enroll-918-499-1441.

What Not To Wear Sunday...

Are you too cold in the sanctuary on Sunday's? Are you too hot? This is just a reminder that if you are too cold, please consider bringing a sweater, jacket, shawl... The stage is very hot compared to the pews and we want to be sure everyone's climate needs are met. When you put the praise team under those spot lights or the choir in those choir robes, you can be sure it is much hotter than in the pews. If you are too hot, try sitting at the end of the pews where the vents are. You will find it much cooler.

Seniors In Action



Thomas Moran, *Tower Falls and Sulphur Mountain*, ca. 1875 detail, chromolithograph

This month we will tour Gilcrease Museum on Wednesday, August 21st. Meet at the church at 10 a.m. Lunch will follow.

We will be touring the Thomas Moran Exhibit. Hope to see you all there!

Sunday Lists

Sunday Volunteers August 4

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.-Kristen Henry
 Young Disciples Lesson-11:00 a.m.-Kristen Henry
 Child. Church-8:30 a.m.-Kingdom Kids
 Child. Church-11:00 a.m.-Kirsten & Julia Henry
 Counters-Betty or Howard Smith & Karen Wilder

Sunday Volunteers August 11

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.-Cathy Gifford
 Young Disciples Lesson-11:00 a.m.-Cathy Gifford
 Children's Church-8:30 a.m.-Kingdom Kids
 Child. Church-11 a.m.-Debbie Schmidt & Amy Miller
 Counters-Sondra Bogert & Dick Ford

Please Keep In Prayer

PRAYER LIST

Ruth Weaver, Donna Woodruff, Keith Dickerson, Destinee Tackett, Mike Massey, Sylvia Johnson, Clinton Wilson, Phil Cearley, Glen Almy, Martha Scudder, Virginia Vice, Margaret Pyeatt, Thelma Bradshaw, Margaret Burke, Don Cole, Darryl Muse, Theresa Rosales, Mary Lea Forsyther, Marilyn Peil, Elsie Jones

Acknowledgements

Thank You!

SSUMC, Thank you does not begin to express how grateful we are/were for your thoughtfulness towards our family. All the prayers, hugs, smiles, and cards were appreciated and welcomed and continue to be a source of comfort for us while we struggle to carry on with our new "normal" without the physical body of Ryder. The church and the individuals show God's true love.

With Love—Mike & Ronnie Patterson

Thank You!

Thank you for your wonderful hospitality in hosting a wedding shower for our son and his wife, Brian and Allie Tabberer. They will be sending their own personal thank you notes, but we wanted to say how much we appreciate the way our church has embraced our entire family. We are truly blessed.

Pastor Don and Linda

Wedding Shower...This Sunday, August 4th, 2:00 p.m. in the Narthex. Wedding Shower for Colin & Tyler Jo (Ashton) Geeding. They are registered at Bed, Bath & Beyond, Target & Wal Mart. Come give them your support in their new journey...

Crumbs From The Cracker

News:

the Awakening Vision:

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

Dayspring Camp:

This year we switched up the camps that our students attended, and each of our students who went to camp, had an amazing time! We had 6 students and 3 leaders go to Dayspring camp, which is for 9th-Grads. Everyone is looking forward to camp 2014! Thank you so much if you helped sponsor a student to go to camp! They had a tremendous time experiencing the presence of God!

The pictures are from Dayspring 2013.

Welcome Back Fun Night!

On August 21st we will be having a "Welcome Back" fun night! During this week most of our students will be starting school so we thought we would kick off the start of the year with a night of fun at youth! Students-bring friends! It's going to be awesome!!! Meet at the FLC @ 630pm

Nation Ball Tournament:

Only 2 weeks left to get your roster set for the "Nation Ball" Tournament @ Faith UMC. We are partnering with Faith UMC to raise money for some of the organizations that we served in Cincinnati, OH this summer. The cost per player is \$15 w/out shirt or \$20 w/event t-shirt souvenir. Team roster sheets are in Graeme's office. You can have 8-10 people on your team. Don't forget to fill one out! Anyone is welcome to be apart of this event! Tell your friends!

"If you can dodge a wrench, you can dodge a ball." Haha sign up soon!

Youth Vision Night 2013!

Are you a student 7th-12th grade? You don't want to miss our youth VISION night 2013! Come join us August 28th @630pm @ the Family Life Center!



Upcoming Dates:

July 31st- Youth Float Trip Be @ 319 N. Main @ 8:30am
\$40 for the float trip & food (No youth in evening)

August 7th- No Youth

August 14th- Youth Go to Faith to plan Fundraiser for Awaken The City Nation Ball Tournament!

August 21st- Welcome Back!!! Fun Night!!! @ 6:30pm

August 24th- Nation Ball Tournament @ Faith UMC
(Going to need some Parents To help with Rides Please)

August 27th- Parent & Volunteer Vision Night Decorate Prep 630pm-830pm (Or as soon as it is done)

August 28th- Youth Vision Night!!! @ 6:30pm

Kidzone

The Children's Team wish to thank everyone for making Everywhere Fun Fair VBS a huge success. We had 71 children. We are already looking forward to next year.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR
FLC-Family Life Center

Wednesday, July 31

7:30 a.m.-Men's Breakfast—Crescent Café
10:00 a.m.-Bible Study-Parlor
10:00 a.m.-Exercise to Music
8:30 a.m.-Youth leave for float trip
6:00 p.m.-No Chancel Ringers
7:00 p.m.-No Chancel Choir

Thursday, August 1

No Activities

Friday, August 2

No Activities

Saturday, August 3

No Activities

Sunday, August 4

8:30 a.m.-Modern Worship
10:00 a.m.-Sunday School
11:00 a.m.-Classic Worship
1:15 p.m.-Finance Committee Meeting-Caleb House
2:00 p.m.-Tyler Jo (Ashton) Wedding Shower-Narthex

Monday, August 5

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

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

Tuesday, August 6

6:30 p.m.-Girl Scouts Leader Meeting-F. Hall
7:00 p.m.-Building For Life Team Meeting-FLC
7:00 p.m.-Al-Anon-Upstairs

Wednesday, August 7

7:30 a.m.-Men's/Women's Breakfast-Crescent Café
10:00 a.m.-Exercise to Music-FLC
6:30 p.m.-NO Youth
6:00 p.m.-NO Chancel Ringers
7:00 p.m.-NO Chancel Choir

Thursday, August 8

11:00 a.m.-Needlers
7:00 p.m.-Stewardship Meeting

Friday, August 9

12:00 p.m.-Boy Scout Eagle Project Fund Raiser-FLC

Sand Springs UMC

319 N. Main Street/PO Box 336

Sand Springs, OK 74063

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

Family Life Center: 918-245-3725

www.SandSpringsumc.org

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