

# The Springs



Rev. Don Tabberer

August 28, 2013



Ecclesiastes 3:3 says, "*There is a time for everything.*"

For this newsletter I am going to suspend my series of articles on the Liturgical Calendar and focus instead on ***Building for Life***. I am so excited about this time of growth and movement into the future life of our church. This kind of planning and praying is about hope; it is also about joy.

I don't know if you've noticed, but as we begin the ***Building for Life*** campaign, we are also planning for the celebration of ***100 Years of Methodism in Sand Springs***, coming up in April 2014. We are also in the midst of "***Focus***", the effort to re-evaluate our church, its ministries, and re-focus our congregation on the mission God has laid out for us. These major initiatives and several other departmental undertakings are the things that excite me about being part of this church. We are constantly seeking to know God's will and looking for ways to do the things God calls us to do in the best possible ways we can. That fills me with **hope** and with **joy**!

In Sunday's message I talked about what it takes to build a life of faith and truly let God be in charge of the way we conduct our lives. It is a challenging message that calls us to believe without seeing; obey even when we don't understand why God is asking us to do something; to give as God calls us to give and not what we have left over after we decide what to do with our resources; to keep going, to persist, even when we don't feel like it; to thank God in advance for what God will do in answer to our prayers; and to trust God even when we don't get the answer we want or expect. These six things are very difficult to put into practice, but they are essential to building a life of faith built on the desire to please God. It is this kind of life that makes God happy.

Faith is a huge part of our ***Building for Life*** emphasis. We are asking everyone in our church to step out in faith and dig a little deeper to give toward the mission and ministries of our church. We are asking each one of you to look ahead at the future of our congregation with the faith that God has great things planned for us if we will only have the courage to move forward. We are challenging everyone here to listen carefully for God's voice in the midst of many voices to hear what God wants us to do to reach the least and the lost in our community. We are urging each person to think of who we do church

for and not think of church as an institution designed to serve our personal needs. I was shocked to hear this at a recent workshop: a survey shows that 88% of Christians responded that the purpose of the church is to serve the needs of them and their families. This shocked me because it is simply not biblical.

Jesus was very clear that his mission to the world was about serving the needs of others first; it was about being blessed in the blessing of others. To think that church is here for us is contrary to Jesus' teaching. The facilities we build are for facilitating the mission and ministries of the church; they are not to provide a "country club" for members. Everything we do in mission and in worship is about God and what we can do to reach people in God's name; the church does not exist to cater to us. I have said many times that I am immensely impressed by the amount of mission work our church does and the significant ministry that takes place in a congregation our size. It is amazing and it is humbling. I pray that more churches will seek to be more like us. I also pray that we will continue to try to be more like Jesus in every way. We do good work here – we can always do more and better work as we try to follow Jesus' example.

I hope you will hear this message as a positive reinforcement of the wonderful things our church is already doing. I also hope you will hear a challenge to do everything we can to be the best disciples we can possibly be with the resources God has given us. John Wesley said, "*We are moving on toward perfection.*" Knowing we can never really achieve perfection should not stop us from doing our best to move in that direction. We can never do everything God wants us to do and never slip up – that should not keep us from always trying to do the best we can with what we've got.

We have a wonderful history to celebrate and honor; we have an even brighter future to live into. As we honor the past in the coming months, let us not get trapped in the past. Build everything for the future life of the church; let the past remain the past as we walk together into the unknown of whatever God is calling us toward. Let us ask ourselves, "***Who will we serve tomorrow?***"

*I pray you hear God's leading today,  
Pastor Don*



## FLC

I was asked to write something about the ways that our FLC has been a blessing to our family. I immediately knew what I wanted to say!

First, it's a blessing because it is a place where our daughter, Lauren, goes every Wednesday night. It's a fun and safe place for her and the other teens and youth in our church and community to be together, worship, be in ministry together and find out the plan that God has for their life. Our church is very blessed to have Graeme Collett leading our youth. Having the FLC as a place to do youth ministry in Sand Springs is an added blessing for the youth in our community. A blessing on a more personal level was having plenty of space for the wedding reception when our daughter, Taylor, and son-in-law, Jarek, were married on July 27.

The fellowship hall would have been too small by far. It was a wonderful day to celebrate their marriage and know that there was plenty of room for people to visit, eat and mingle.

Lastly, the FLC has been a tremendous blessing to our school and community through my association with the Sand Springs Band Boosters. Lauren is in band. At the end of the last school year when it was time to plan the end of year banquet the band was told by another church in town that we couldn't use their facility as we had in the past. We got permission to use the FLC for the banquet and it was a huge success. The parents, band directors and kids were so excited and so appreciative for being allowed to use the facility. We just used it again last week for a fundraiser for the band.

Thanks to the church from this band parent (and mom!) for providing a place that makes a difference not just in our family, but in the community, too.

## Someone's Praying, Lord...

WOW! We had our 12-hour Prayer Vigil completely filled in with one or more people signed up for each 30-minute slot, and others popping in to pray, or praying at home for our Building for Life and Spiritual Growth Emphasis. You could certainly feel the presence of the Lord in Sunday's worship service. Our prayer is that everyone will be open to the moving of the Spirit the next six weeks as we open ourselves to God's plan for SSUMC. Pray with me for the Miracle of Giving that we need to move forward, but also pray for the miracle of God-filled lives desiring to share the wonderful love of Jesus with others. Virginia



## Are You Reading?

Ever find yourself on the pages of a book you did not write? "The Reluctant Pilgrim" provides that possibility. It traces Okoro's search for a community in which she can embrace both her turbulent love of God and her passion for gorgeous shoes. It's a story of longing and promise, and God's persistent presence. Find out where, if anywhere, she discovers God on her journey.

This and many other books are in the UMW section of the church library. There's still time to complete plans of reading to receive a certificate for 2013. One reader has already turned in her completion requirements showing 20 books read, but that number is not a requirement.

Like Okoro, you may be surprised what you discover when you stop into the library on your search for spiritual understanding. If you have questions regarding the UMW Reading Program, please contact me.

Thanks, Wava Burt

# FAITH POLITICS & neighbors

**New six-week  
study begins  
September 9,  
2013  
Monday evenings  
at 6:30 PM**

**OR  
Wednesdays at 10:00 AM**

How should we approach religion and politics, the volatile twins that etiquette advises us to shun in polite conversation? Can people of good faith but different faiths still remain in good faith when the subject of politics arises? These are some of the questions we will engage in this study.

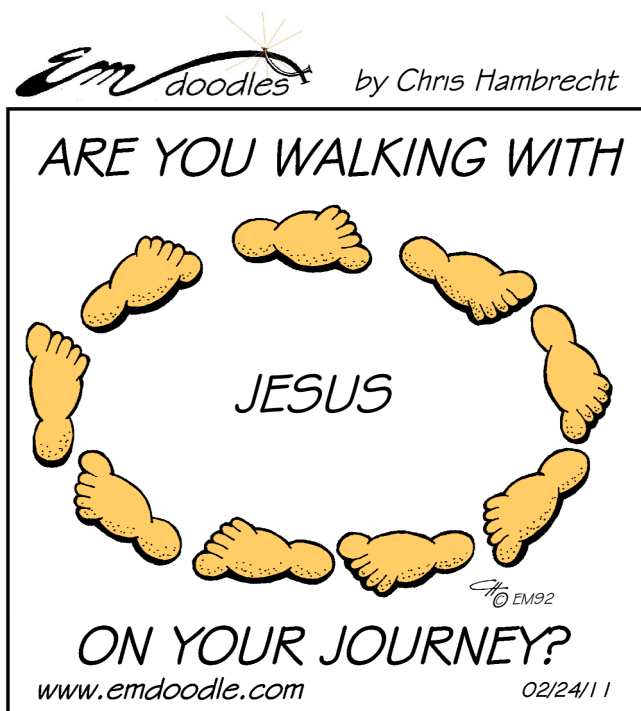
**"Faith"** has two meanings in this study. (1) The beliefs of a particular religion or denomination; (2) Trust in a transcendent center of value and power. **"Spirit"** will be considered as (1) energy, vivacity, ardor, enthusiasm, and courage; (2) a temper or disposition of mind and heart, or a group. **"Politics"** is a term used broadly in this study, not limited to nations or political parties, but including social relations involving authority and power. In addition to civic politics, there can also be a politics of church, tribe, or family – even couples. The politics of a social system is informed by the spirits of *all* the members of that system. Finally, "neighbor" calls us to consider how our faith and the spirits of our various political systems lead us to engage our neighbors with compassion as shown to us in the person of Jesus Christ.

I hope you will join us for this time of study and discovery as we tackle the taboo subjects our daddies loved to shout about and our mamas wanted no part of at the dinner table. **Call the office to sign up now so we can prepare materials.**

## 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 im-

proves 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 at 918-499-1441



## Baby Shower

**Baby Addilynn Paige Ashton is due September 28, 2013.**

**Carole Ashton and Family invite you to a Baby Shower for Jeremy & Jennifer Ashton Saturday, September 7 ~ 10:00 a.m. ~ Church Narthex**

**They are registered at Babies R Us and Wal Mart. Their Colors are pink, white, and black.**

## Sunday Lists

### Sunday Volunteers      September 1

Visitors Center & Coffee-Up Rising Young Adults  
 Head Usher-8:30 a.m.-Frank Johnston  
 Head Usher-11:00 a.m.-Eddy David  
 Young Disciples Lesson-8:30 a.m.-Amy Miller  
 Young Disciples Lesson-11:00 a.m.-Amy Miller  
 Child. Church-8:30 a.m.-Kingdom Kids  
 Child. Church-11:00 a.m.-Amy & Lauren Miller  
 Counters-Diana Pond & Jack Vest

### Sunday Volunteers      September 8

Visitors Center & Coffee-Up Rising Young Adults  
 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-Betty or Howard Smith & Karen Wilder

## Please Keep In Prayer

### PRAYER LIST

Ruth Weaver, Donna Woodruff, Keith Dickerson, Destinee Tackett, Mike & Robbie, Sylvia Johnson, Clinton Wilson, Glen Almy, Martha Scudder, Virginia Vice, Margaret Pyeatt, Theresa Rosales, Mary Lea Forsythe, Marilyn Peil, Elsie Jones, Violet Krause

## Acknowledgements

### *Thank You!*

*I am so very thankful for the people who came and worked in my flowerbeds and on the trees. They were such a blessing and I thank everyone who sent me a card and who brought me some food. I especially thank everyone who prayed for me. I certainly do not feel that I have been forgotten by my church family.*

*Sincerely—Mary Lea Forsythe*

### *Thank You!*

*Gosh—where do I begin? Thank you to EVERYONE for the prayers. They were so obviously felt. Thank you for the visits, cards, offers of food and comfort... Thank you for everything! I was blessed from the start of this mess and continue to be blessed!!! Things are so much better and I owe it to his healing power through your prayers.*

*Sincerely—Tracey G.*

### *Thank You!*

*Thank you Pat Cheek for fixing Mel's flagpole after the big wind storm. Without hesitation, you had it fixed and had my flag flying again. You mean so much to our church and to me!*

*Sincerely—Norma Jones*



## Crumbs From The Cracker

### News:

the Awakening Vision:

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

### Youth Vision Night 2013!

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

### Parent Info Night:

**Are you a Parent or Guardian of one of our students 7<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> grade** who attend Sand Springs United Methodist Church? **We want you for 1.5 hours** to share the **exciting things that we have planned** for your student **this coming fall and into the spring!** Please make every effort to attend on **September 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 7pm** in the **Caleb House.**

### Upcoming Youth Series:

We have some exciting things going to happen in a couple of weeks within the youth ministry at SSUMC **"The Awakening"**. On **September 11<sup>th</sup>** we are going to **be launching a 4 week series** based on **"Mentor" relationships** with fellow **brothers & sisters in Christ**. The series is called **"Mini-Me"**. During this **4-week series** we are going to be looking at **"Mentor" relationships in the Bible** and seeing how they apply to us as Christians in the local church. **This is an exciting series for the future of our youth and the future of our church!**

### Upcoming Dates:

**August 28<sup>th</sup> - Youth Vision Night!!! @ 6:30pm**

**September 3<sup>rd</sup> - Parent Info Night 7pm-8:30pm @ Caleb House**

**September 4<sup>th</sup> - "The Awakening" goes to Green Tree meet at FLC @530pm**

**September 11<sup>th</sup> - Mini-Me Series Starts @ 6:30pm @ FLC**

**September 19<sup>th</sup> - Future Mentor Meeting @ 7pm In The Narthex**

### Special Thanks!!!

**Thank you to all of my awesome volunteers and parents who have gone over and above this summer to help with our youth and 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade class this summer while I have been out of town for camps, mission trip, and vacation! You all are the ministry of the church! Thanks for your service for Jesus and His church!**



### Kidzone

We finished work on the pieces of our scrapbook about the Disciples. Ms. Debbie and Ms. Marty will be putting those together so the kids can take them home. They had fun doing it and learned a lot, too.

Remember our new schedule for the month of September...Sunday School at 9am, Worship at 10:15am. On Sunday we will begin our study of Philippians. You won't want to miss it!

See you Sunday!



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### FLC-Family Life Center

#### Wednesday, August 28

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

#### Thursday, August 29

7:00 p.m.-Faith Circle

#### Friday, August 30

No Activities

#### Saturday, August 31

Family Life Center in Use

#### Sunday, September 1

9:00 a.m.-Sunday School  
10:00 a.m.-Worship

#### Monday, September 2-Offices Closed

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

#### Tuesday, September 3

6:30 p.m.-FLC in use

7:00 p.m.—Youth Parent Info-Caleb House

7:00 p.m.-Praise Team

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

#### Wednesday, September 4

7:30 a.m.-Men's/Women's Breakfast-Crescent Café  
10:00 a.m.-Exercise to Music-FLC  
5:30 p.m.-Youth to Green Tree  
6:00 p.m.-Chancel Ringers  
7:00 p.m.-Chancel Choir

#### Thursday, September 5

FLC in use

#### Friday, September 6

No Activities

#### Saturday, September 7

10:00 a.m.-Jeremy & Jennifer Ashton Baby Shower-See *inside for details*

*Tracey will be out of the offices next week,  
September 2-6 during the Labor Day Holiday*

#### **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](http://www.SandSpringsumc.org)**

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**Our Helping Hands ministry will be**

**Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup>.**

**7:30 a.m.**

**We will meet in the Fellowship Hall for a light  
breakfast and then head out**

**to work at 8:00 a.m.**

**Please contact Jami Warkentin or**

**Buster Hall if you can join us.**

Label Here