

# The Springs



Rev. Don Tabberer

November 6, 2013



*"Now hurry, go and tell..." (Matthew 28:7)*

After the Resurrection, Jesus met the women in the garden and told them to go and tell the disciples that he was alive and would meet them in Galilee. A few thousand years earlier, God told Moses to go and tell Pharaoh to release the Hebrew slaves from bondage in Egypt. In between these two landmark events a lot of prophets and ordinary believers have been told to go somewhere and tell someone about God. Thankfully, some of those people obeyed so that we now know about the Creator of the universe and the Redeemer of all people. If none of those people had been willing to do the hard work of telling others about God then we would have no hope.

This morning I had no idea what I was going to write for this week's newsletter. I was counting on God to provide something worth talking about. As usual, God does not disappoint. Our Youth Pastor, Graeme Collett, shared a sad story with me about an encounter he recently had with a group of students from another church. In short, their conversation was about how the students shared their faith in Jesus with other people. The sad reality is that they do not. These students felt that sharing Jesus with others would be inconsiderate and disrespectful of whatever those people believed or did not believe. The students thought that it was wrong for them to "impose" their views on their friends at school or others they encounter. When pressed, the students said they only talk about Jesus at church.

I was shocked at their lack of understanding of what it means to be a disciple and that our call is to go and make disciples. How can one regularly attend a United Methodist Church and not know that Jesus came to tell the world about God and then he told us to go and tell the world about God? I don't get it! But, as we continued to discuss this situation, I began to realize that it is not their fault at all. We are to blame.

These students cannot be expected to soak up a few minutes of church each week and translate that into impassioned evangelism. We must help them connect the dots. Our contemporary culture is sending out a wide array of conflicting messages on just about every issue you can name. We are all confused sometimes about what we see and hear versus what we believe. We all struggle to connect our faith and our morals with the realities of a broken world. And, heaven knows, "political correctness" often prevents us from telling the truth about what we believe and who the Lord of our life really is. Part of the problem is that we have not really given our lives to Jesus...all of our lives, all of the time...part of the problem is that we continue to care what other people might think of us if we tell them about Jesus or invite them to go to church with us.

When was the last time you prayed before your meal at a restaurant? Do you give thanks for your meals at home in front of the kids? How often do you remind your children that Jesus loves them just the way they are? Are you willing to demonstrate your faith by making sure the whole family is up and dressed in time to come to worship on Sunday morning? Can you deny your selfish interests to spend a few hours on Saturday morning with the Helping Hands Mission AND bring the kids along to see why it's important to help in the name of Jesus? What are you doing every day to "connect the dots" between what you say you believe and what it really means in your life?

We must never be ashamed of our Jesus. We must be willing to tell everyone we meet about the man who came into this world and showed us what it means to be obedient to God. He demonstrated God's infinite love for us and the mercy and forgiveness God offers us. Why on earth would you hesitate to share this good news with others? I think that maybe we have not given our students, or ourselves, permission to go share the gospel. Well, you have permission.

***Hurry, go and tell somebody!***  
***Pastor Don***



## Operation Christmas Child

The children want to invite everyone to their Operation Christmas Child shoe box party on November 16, 10am-12pm, in fellowship hall. It is great fun! We'll have pizza

for lunch together when we are finished. We hope you will plan to join us. You'll be glad you did. SSUMC is once again a local drop-off center for Operation Christmas Child. We will collect shoe boxes from the community at the FLC from November 18-November 25. If you would like to volunteer please contact Amy Miller to sign up for a shift. It's easy and you meet lots of really nice people.

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

Today I'm thinking of our dear friends who are transitioning (or who already have) into retirement facilities. As nice as they are, it is still very hard to give up your life as you've always known it, and enter into a brand new one. Just in the past year, Barbara McClintock, Judy & Jay Bullard, Ricky Jones, Irene Stogsdill, and now, Leonard and Leta Brehm have all made the decision to simplify their lives while still enjoying the fellowship of others and experiencing brand new adventures. Let's remember these and others you might be aware of in our prayers this week.

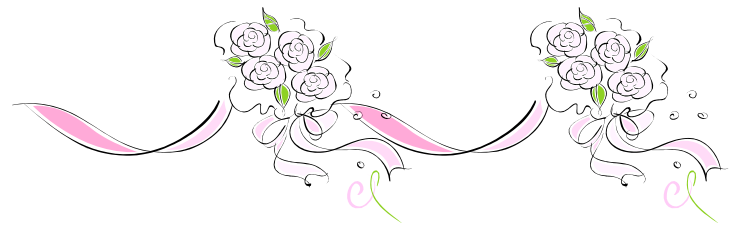
Also, we have several precious members who are in nursing homes both here and in other states. These are all our valuable members who have been very active in their church home at one time. Let us not forget! Let's Pray for God's blessings of comfort, peace and good health for each of them. Virginia

### Tracey's Favorite Bible Verse: Hebrews 13:2

*Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing so, some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.*

## Community Thanksgiving Dinners

As you know by now, this is a very busy month at Sand Springs United Methodist Church. We hand-delivered nearly 800 home cooked Thanksgiving Dinners last year to folks who otherwise would not have had a Thanksgiving Dinner. Anyone who has delivered has a story. I remember the family who were all together and it was a father, his daughters, and a grandchild. They had bread pudding on the table. The father had lost a daughter the week before and they were just continuing to grieve together. Someone had ordered them meals without their knowledge and boy were they surprised!!! They probably could not afford a full dinner but they were looking forward to celebrating Thanksgiving with bread pudding. I cannot tell you how much that affected me and my friends who delivered with me that year. It is easy to judge... but it is much easier to leave feeling blessed. We could not speak when we got in the car. I cried. I buried my face in my hands and cried. It was more than I could take. They were so excited when we left. Probably the first time they felt wonderful in a couple of weeks. Consider doing what you can this year. You will be blessed!



## You Are Invited To A Wedding Shower & Brunch for

*Rob & Briana Collett*

*Saturday, November 9*

*11:00 a.m.*

*SSUMC Warthen*

*A light brunch will be served.*

*They are registered at Target & Bed, Bath & Beyond*

# What is \$1 a day?



or \$7 towards apportionments

**A percentage of apportionment money goes to the Volunteers in Mission (VIM) - VIM has helped thousands of local church volunteers minister to low income persons and victims of disasters.**



Thanks for all your giving to the Dollar-A-Day campaign! \$16,154 have now been paid as designated giving to apportionments. Keep up the good work!

The Stewardship Team

## Art Classes

### Introduction

I am a certified teacher with 21 years experience teaching art to children. I believe that everyone can be creative and that it makes your life so much better!

### Class Information

Classes for students age 6 and up are taught twice a week in my studio located in the Fellowship Hall of the Sand Springs United Methodist Church 319 N. Main. You can sign your child up for the Wednesday or Friday classes. The class is from 3:30 to 5:00. The cost for the children's classes is \$48 a month for 4 Wednesday or 4 Friday classes if paid in advance. Otherwise, classes are \$12.50 each. Parents are invited to stay during the class and are welcome to participate. Students must be pre-enrolled to attend the classes.

Saturday Adult classes are \$13. One class a month will feature art techniques based on a famous artist or artwork and one class a month will be more craft oriented. Supplies: [www.theartgirlstudio.com](http://www.theartgirlstudio.com)

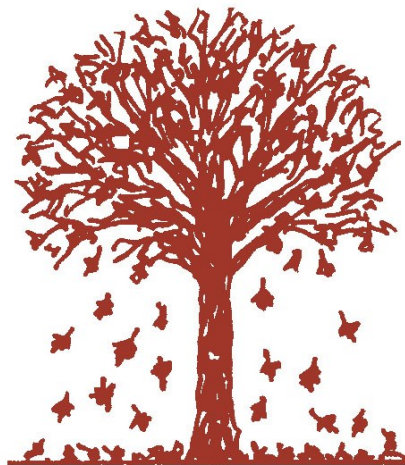
Please contact me, Jennifer Barretto, at 918-814-5717 to enroll or find out more information. You may also email me at [jbarretto@theartgirlstudio.com](mailto:jbarretto@theartgirlstudio.com)



## Benefit for Sand Springs

### Community Services.

To benefit **Sand Springs Community Services** for the upcoming Thanksgiving season, the **United Methodist Life Family Center** in Prattville is having a Pumpkin Party on November 9th from 6 pm til 10 pm. There will be food, a Guitar Raffle, and 4 band will be performing. The event is sponsored by Pyramid Printing. Business vendor spots are available-call 918-514-4073 for more information.



# Autumn

## *Sunday Lists*

### **Sunday Volunteers**

**November 10**

Visitors Center & Coffee-TNT

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

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

Young Disciples Lesson-8:30a.m.-Cathy Gifford

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

Child. Church-8:30 a.m.-Kingdom Kids

Child. Church-11:00 a.m.-Debbie & Amy

Counters-Diana Pond & Jack Vest

### **Sunday Volunteers**

**November 17**

Visitors Center & Coffee-TNT

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

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

Young Disciples Lesson-8:30a.m.-Jami War-kentin

Young Disciples Lesson-11:00 a.m.-Jami War-kentin

Child. Church-8:30 a.m.-Kingdom Kids

Child. Church-11:00 a.m.-Amy & Lauren Miller

Counters-Betty or Howard & Karen Wilder

## *Please Keep In Prayer*

### PRAYER LIST

Ruth Weaver, Donna Woodruff, Destinee Tackett, Sylvia Johnson, Clinton Wilson, Glen Almy, Martha Scudder, Virginia Vice, Margaret Pyeatt, Theresa Rosales, Mary Lea Forsythe, Marilyn Peil, Elsie Jones, Mona Warren, Pat Cheek, Michael Bostwick

## *Acknowledgements*

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

*...to Kim Bennett and family and friends for the loss of her husband, Toby Bennett. Funeral was last week and continued prayers and Kim goes through this transition.*





## Crumbs From The Cracker

### News:

#### the Awakening Vision:

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

#### Proud Student Leader!

I have to take a short moment to boast on our students' hearts to reach the community for Christ!!! During the past week they reached out to two different generations! On Wednesday our students and leaders reached out to the residents at Green Tree. This is a local mission the kids have committed to serving on a monthly schedule. They put on a Halloween themed party for the people of Green Tree that was filled with all sorts of delicious snacks, drinks and fun! Students dressed up... students served... students loved! The next day some of them showed up after school to help decorate the Fellowship Hall with Halloween decorations to make our Trunk or Treat game area an experience that the children from the community would not forget! Our students stepped out of their comfort zones to serve generations from 2 year olds to 90 year olds in a matter of two days! I am so proud to see the heart of Christ in our youth at work! Church, you have a generation that wants to change the world for Jesus. Thanks for all of your support in helping make this happen! Spend some time with a teenager this week. Let their passion rub off on you as you share your wisdom with them!

#### Operation Christmas Child:

Hey students start collecting your toys, school supplies, and hygiene products. We will be doing our annual shoebox stuffing for Operation Christmas Child on November 13<sup>th</sup>. Last year our students packed 47 boxes!!! Let's see if we can hit 65-70 this year!!!!

#### The Awakening Go To Pops:

We are planning our annual trip to "Pops" in Arcadia on November 20<sup>th</sup>. The vans will be leaving the parking lot at 319 N. Main at 5pm. If you are interested please be sure to sign up in advance to go on the trip... seats will be limited... sign up quick! We will be in need of multiple drivers as well as large vehicles to transport students to pops. Please let me know if you are willing to be a driver for this trip! Students plan on brining any time from \$10-\$15 for dinner and a choice of your favorite soda!! We should be back no later than 10pm.

#### Drivers Needed!

Are you interested in hanging out with teenagers and helping transport them to youth on Wednesday nights? Have we got the place for you to serve! We are recruiting drivers for our Wednesday night program! Please let me know

(gcollett@sandspringsumc.org) if you would be interested in driving 2 Wednesdays a month. Thanks!

#### Special Thank You!

Thank you so much all of the students, parents, congregation members, and Pastor Don for all of the encouraging words and notes to our volunteer team! You helped us make our Volunteer Appreciation Night extra special for our team!

#### Upcoming Dates:

**Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>- Movie Night @ FLC @ 6:30pm**

**Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>- Helping Hands Outreach @ 7:30am @ Fellowship Hall**

**Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>- Operation Christmas Child Boxes @ 6:30pm**

**Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>- Youth Go To Pops! Time TBA**

**Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>- No youth**

**Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>- Christmas Card Mission @ 6:30pm**

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## KidZone News



Hey, everyone!

Sunday, November 10, is our Operation Christmas Child fundraiser.

The children have made bbq sauce, sugar scrub hand cleanser, and a very special little snowman decoration. He's really cute! Proceeds will buy gifts for the children to use when we have our shoebox packing party on November 16, from 10am-12pm in fellowship hall.

Kingdom

Kids continues to work on the children's Christmas program. Make sure you are here as much as possible. We need you!!!

The children are working on the Christmas musical during Kingdom Kids each Sunday. Please be there. Your attendance is so important. We don't have that many Sundays left to practice!

Mark your calendars! The children will also be taking part in the 5pm Christmas Eve service. Invite your families and friends to attend.

See you Sunday!

## *The benefits of year-end giving*

The year is quickly coming to an end, and 2014 will be here before we know it. Many times we get caught up in the holiday season and planning for the next year, and we forget about making year-end gifts to our church and beloved United Methodist ministries. These gifts, large or small, are important to ministry and could be as simple as an addition to your church's permanent endowment fund, the missions fund, or a supplement to special projects or programs your church is already doing.

Thoughtfully addressing your charitable giving plans between now and Dec. 31 can help assure maximum benefits for you and your church or favorite ministry. Carefully considering what to give, and when to give it, can increase the impact of your gifts and help meet personal goals as well. There are many ways you can make a gift before the end of the year that will provide you with valuable benefits and help further the work of your favorite United Methodist cause. These benefits include tax savings on this year's return and bypass of capital gains tax on the sale of your property.

Here are three options for year-end giving:

**Make a deductible gift of cash** While all gifts mailed or hand-delivered by Dec. 31 qualify for the charitable deduction, gifts of cash are the most common and the easiest way to give. If you itemize your tax deductions, gifts of cash are deductible up to 50 percent of your adjusted gross income (AGI).

**Make a deductible gift of securities** Making gifts of stocks, bonds, and/or mutual funds directly to the Oklahoma United Methodist Foundation for the benefit of your church can bring extra tax savings. If you have held such assets longer than one year, the gift can be deducted at full fair market value, not just the original cost. Giving this way enables you to bypass capital gains tax. Gifts of securities are deductible up to 30 percent of AGI.

**Make a deductible gift of real estate and avoid taxes** If you own appreciated real estate that you no longer need, consider gifting this property to the Foundation for the benefit of your cherished United Methodist cause. The Foundation will sell your property tax-free, and you will receive a charitable tax deduction for the fair market value of the property and avoid paying capital gains tax. Contact the Foundation at 800-259-6863 for more information on year-end gifts.

**Now is also a good time to review your estate plan.** Everyone wants to make an impact on the world, to leave it a little better after we are gone. A bequest is one of the easiest and most tangible ways to have a lasting impact on the people and organizations that mean the most to you. You can create a bequest of any dollar amount, gift specific property, or designate a percentage of your estate in your will or trust. Consider including a tithe of your will to benefit your United Methodist church or favorite ministry. Ten percent can make a big impact. Your generosity will make a difference for years to come. Contact David Battles at the Oklahoma United Methodist Foundation for more information. [www.okumf.org](http://www.okumf.org); 800-259-6863

## ***“Stand Fast for Christ”***

“Let me tell you why you are here. You’re here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You’ve lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage. Here’s another way of putting it: You’re here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We’re going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don’t think I’m going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I’m putting you on a light stand. Now that I’ve put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand — Shine!” (Matthew 5:13-15, *The Message*)

**BY BISHOP ROBERT HAYES JR.**

Do you grow weary of hearing about the bad in our world? I do! We are bombarded with accounts of violence, evil, and corruption inflicted by humans upon one another. The stories spill out incessantly from 24/7 news media. It seems we can’t escape the ugliness of a civilization that at times seems so uncivilized. This column counters the bad news. This heralds the good that often goes unseen and unappreciated. Can you imagine how bad the world would be without Christians? I want to declare the measurable difference that Christians and caring people of other faith communities make as we seek to transform lives in good ways. I don’t think we can even begin to fathom how unbearable life would be if people of goodwill were absent in the world. I believe that Christians are the moral compass in society, the conscience that prevents humanity from drifting into senselessness and chaos. Christians raise the standard of concern and caring that is essential if good is to triumph over evil. We are the people who take our name from the greatest teacher who ever walked this earth! Jesus Christ proclaimed a message of salvation, hope, and love for all people! He despised hatred and evil, exclusion and greed. His life was dedicated to the poor and others marginalized by society. He redefined wealth as something not to be stockpiled but to be given away to help the disenfranchised. He lived as an example for us to emulate. Christ reminds us that goodness and mercy ultimately overcome the forces that seek to destroy. He never said that following him would be easy. In fact, he likened discipleship to denying one’s self and carrying a cross. He presented us with a great paradox, saying that if you truly want to live fully, you must be willing to lose your life in the pursuit of good.

One day, a multitude of people wanted to hear the message he preached. No one had ever heard anyone speak as he did. On the side of a hill, he sat down and began to talk to that crowd in down-to-earth language that everyone could understand. He called people that followed him the salt of the earth. Salt was the most precious commodity of that time. But Christ said, “If salt has lost its ability to season, to add zest, to preserve that which is good, then it becomes good for nothing!” He went on to describe people who make a measurable difference as the light of the world. By being light, we illuminate the world with brightness and prevent the world from stumbling in the darkness of sin. Christ concluded, “Let your light shine so others may see who you belong to through your good works.” In today’s world of spiritual bearings off course, people become lost, confused about priorities without direction from the One who is the true compass. One writer applied the term the “slippery generation,” meaning the general feeling that everything around us is falling out of control. Christians are the people who keep their balance, who hold steady at the center of life’s vortex.

One day a passerby noticed a boy riding a horse in a field. The pair rode up, the boy holding the reins tightly. “Do you like your horse?” asked the stranger. “Oh, yes, sir,” said the boy, “I sure do.” The man asked, “Is he a swift runner, or can he do tricks?” “No, he doesn’t run fast at all, and neither does he do tricks.” So the man asked, “Then what can he do?” The little boy thought for a while, then responded, “Mister, he can sure stand fast!”

In worldly thinking, much credit and attention is given to those who live fast, to lifestyles of glitter and glamour. But Jesus commends those who remain faithful when trials and tribulations assault us. Carrying his name, we are called to stand fast!

A church sign proclaimed this message: “Work for the Lord. The pay may not seem like much, but the retirement plan is out of this world!” Throughout your life, recognize the wages that you receive now as a Christian. As you work to let your light shine against the darkness, you get peace that surpasses understanding, power that enables you to stand fast each day, and purpose for living.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### FLC-Family Life Center

#### Wednesday, November 6

7:30 a.m.-M/W Breakfast—Crescent Café  
10:00 a.m.-Exercise to Music  
3:30 p.m.-Art Class-F. Hall  
6:30 p.m.-The Awakening Youth-FLC  
6:00 p.m.-Chancel Ringers  
7:00 p.m.-Chancel Choir

#### Thursday, November 7

6:00 p.m.-FLC in use

#### Friday, November 8

3:30 p.m.-Are Class-F. Hall

#### Saturday, November 9

7:30 a.m.-Helping Hands  
11:00 a.m.-Rob & Brianna Collett Wedding Shower-Narthex  
All Day-FLC in use

#### Sunday, November 10

8:30 a.m.-Modern Worship; 11:00 a.m.-Classic Worship  
10:00 a.m.-Sunday School

#### Monday, November 11

10:00 a.m.-Exercise to Music-FLC  
6:15 p.m.-Book Club-Parlor  
7:00 p.m.-Boy Scouts-FLC

#### Tuesday, November 12

6:30 p.m.-Cub Scouts-FLC  
7:00 p.m.-Praise Team  
7:00 p.m.-Al-Anon-Upstairs

#### Wednesday, November 13

7:30 a.m.-Men's Breakfast-Crescent Café  
10:00 a.m.-Exercise to Music-FLC  
3:30 p.m.-Art Class-F. Hall  
6:30 p.m.-Youth-*The Awakening*-FLC  
6:00 p.m.-Chancel Ringers  
7:00 p.m.-Chancel Choir

#### Thursday, November 14

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

#### *Sand Springs UMC*

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