

# The Springs



December 4, 2013

Rev. Don Tabberer

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*"Because there is one loaf, FROM we, who are many, are THE one body, for we all share the one loaf." (1 Corinthians 10:17)*

### Holy Communion...This Holy Mystery

Since we have begun celebrating Holy Communion each week, it seems important that we continue to examine the sacrament and what it means to the church. The United Methodist Church has a clear theology of the sacrament that goes back to John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist Movement. This understanding helps us appreciate the grace of God and the means we have of receiving God's grace in our lives. Over the next several newsletters we will spend some time reviewing some of this material in the hope that we all become more aware of what Communion means to us as followers of Christ and how important it is to our lives as Christians.

### The Meaning of Holy Communion

The New Testament presents the major ideas that shape our understanding. A brief look at each of these will help us better comprehend the meaning of the sacrament.

Holy Communion is Eucharist, an act of thanksgiving. The early Christians *"broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people"* (Acts 2:46-47a). As we commune, we express joyful thanks for God's mighty acts throughout history — for creation, covenant, redemption, sanctification. The Great Thanksgiving is a recitation of this salvation history, culminating in the work of Jesus Christ and the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit. It conveys our gratitude for the goodness of God and God's unconditional love for us.

Holy Communion is the communion of the church — the gathered community of the

faithful, both local and universal. While deeply meaningful to the individuals participating, the sacrament is much more than a personal event. The first person pronouns throughout the ritual are consistently plural — we, us, and our. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10:17 explains that *"because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread."* The sharing and bonding experienced at the table exemplify the nature of the church and model the world as God would have it be.

Holy Communion is remembrance, commemoration, and memorial, but this remembrance is much more than simply intellectual recalling. *"Do this in remembrance of me"* (Luke 22:19; 1 Corinthians 11:24-25) is the dynamic calling to memory that becomes representation of past gracious acts of God in the present, so powerfully as to make them truly present now. Christ is risen and is alive here and now, not just remembered for what was done in the past.

Holy Communion is a type of sacrifice. It is a re-presentation, not a repetition, of the sacrifice of Christ. Hebrews 9:26 makes clear that *"he has appeared once for all at the end of the age to remove sin by the sacrifice of himself."* Christ's atoning life, death, and resurrection make divine grace available to us. We also present ourselves as sacrifice in union with Christ (Romans 12:1; 1 Peter 2:5) to be used by God in the work of redemption, reconciliation, and justice. In the Great Thanksgiving, the church prays: *"We offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us..."* (UMH; page 10). To be continued...

***Expect God's grace today,  
Pastor Don***

## Music Ministry Musings

Don't forget that the **Kingdom Kids** present "The Perfect Gift" **this Sunday evening at 6:00 pm** in the sanctuary. This Christmas musical is going to be a really delightful way to begin your Christmas season. A Birthday Party for Jesus will follow with Birthday cake and punch. You won't want to miss it!

On Sunday, December 15th at 6:00 pm in the sanctuary the Chancel Choir will present "Appalachian Winter", a cantata that celebrates the legacy of early American carols and hymnody. Composed in the spirit of folk music, the cantata combines traditional sounds with more rustic elements, creating a blend that is fresh and exciting. Popular American carols like "Away in a Manger" and "O Little Town of Bethlehem" dance with traditional spirituals such as "Children, Go Where I Send Thee" and "Go, Tell It on the Mountain." Sacred Harp tunes are retooled for advent and stand alongside new versions of Shaker hymns and Appalachian melodies. Thoughtful narration weaves the movements together in a meaningful tapestry of song and Scripture. The Chancel Choir will be joined by the Chancel Ringers for a beautiful evening of music.

The Praise Team and the Youth Praise Band will present their Christmas celebration of music on December 22nd at 6:00 pm. Look for more details in the next newsletter.



## Christmas Angel Tree

We have adopted two families this Christmas. There is an Angel Tree in the Narthex for each family. Hanging on the trees are angels that tell you the gender and age of the family member and describe an item to get them for Christmas. We have included essentials like clothing and wishes like toys for the kids. We have also included angels for all the makings of Christmas dinner. Please be generous and take as many angels as you like to go shopping and help us bring a joyous holiday to these families. We ask that you buy the gift described on the angel card, wrap it, affix the card to the package, and then return the package underneath the appropriate tree by **Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>**. We are very excited about this mission and we pray

that you will help us by being very generous in your giving. If you are unable to go shopping, but you still want to be involved, please consider making a cash gift to the project and someone will do the shopping for you. Contact Linda Tabberer for assistance in making this happen.

## The Priscilla UMW Circle Change of Plans!!

December Potluck/Gift Exchange will be held December 10th, at 6:30 pm, with the following change of location. ***We will meet at the home of Virginia Baldridge, 3225 Spring Tree Lane, instead of our beloved Cathy Hula's.*** As Cathy's left arm is in a cast due to carpal tunnel surgery, she will be unable to host and is so disappointed. Big thanks to Virginia and her 'elves' who decorated the Baldridge home over Thanksgiving break! Anyone needing transportation, please contact me, Trish House, 918-245-5508. And remember to bring your favorite pot luck dish as well as a gift between \$5 and \$10 for our very civil gift exchange. Great food, heated gift swapping but most of all, blessed fellowship!

**SENIORS IN ACTION!** It's time for our annual Christmas Potluck Lunch on Wednesday, Dec. 11th at 11:30 a.m. We'll gather in the Fellowship Hall to enjoy each other's company, and good food! Ham and drinks will be provided, so please bring your favorite side dish or dessert. Please bring a boxed or canned food item for a basket to be delivered to Sand Springs Community Services. We hope to see you there! Contact Max or Sharon Schuermann at 918-246-9159, if you have questions.

The Church Office is closed after Christmas, December 26-31. In case of **EMEGENCY** you may contact  
Pastor Don at 918-932-0166  
Or  
Alan Parker at 918-557-9278.

# What is \$1 a day?



or \$7 towards apportionments

A percentage of apportionment money goes to the **Skyline Urban Ministry** - Skyline's mission is to impact lives, empower those in need and to address the roots of poverty in Oklahoma.



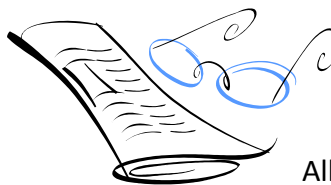
Mary. Mary desperately searching for her son in the wind-lashed rain; the cry of gratitude from a leper's lips; the loving intimacy of Jesus in prayer; the fury of religious leaders; the agony of an iron crucifixion spike piercing human sinew. Loving son, intimate friend, and brilliant teacher, tender in heart, fierce in anger, wholehearted in joy and in grief, deeply human yet unmistakably divine – this is the Jesus who lives and breathes in these pages. The Jesus of the Bible, revealing God's heart in the midst of time and culture. A copy of this exciting book is now available for check-out in the Church Library along with other selections from the Pastor's Book Club.



## Just a Reminder...

The UMW will be filling **Goody Bags** this Friday Morning, December 6th at 9

a.m. for the Wesley Foundation Students. The sacks will be filled with yummy treats to help ease the stress of finals. If you would like to buy goodies to help the ladies out, you can drop them by the church before Friday the 6th. Some examples of snack they use are: crackers, fruit snacks, small bags of chips, sunflower seeds, gum, candy bars, popcorn, nuts, flavored teas, cocoa, breakfast bars, 100-calorie packs...

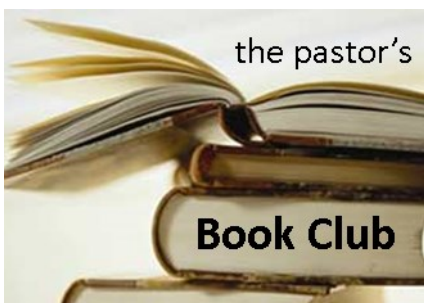


## Newsletter Changes

We are changing the deadline for newsletter articles.

All articles must be submitted to Tracey by 11 a.m. on the Monday of the newsletter week.

Also, we will have NO NEWSLETTER the week of December 30. If you wish to submit an article for this year, please have it in by 11 a.m. on December 16th. Otherwise, it will go in the next newsletter, the week of January 13th.



the pastor's

## "Jesus"

By Walter Wangerin

In vibrant language, Walter Wangerin, Jr. sweeps away centuries of tradition and reveals a man of flesh-and-heart im-

mediacy. Passionate, intelligent, and irresistibly real, this is a Jesus pulsing with life who will captivate you as thoroughly as he did the men and women who walked with him across Galilee's golden countryside. Days of centuries past become today, lit with bright colors of the imagination. Wangerin shows you Jesus through the eyes of the two people who were with him at the foot of the cross, the two who knew and loved him best: John the apostle, and Jesus' beloved mother,

## *Sunday Lists*

### **Sunday Volunteers—December 8**

Visitors Center & Coffee-Searchers

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

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

Young Disciples Lesson-8:30a.m.-Kingdom Kids

Young Disciples Lesson-11:00 a.m.-Kingdom Kids

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

Child. Church-11:00 a.m.-Debbie S. & Jan D.

Counters-Janie Moore & Kent Warkentin

### **Sunday Volunteers—December 15**

Visitors Center & Coffee-Searchers

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

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

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

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

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

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

Counters-Diana Pond & Jack Vest

## *Please Keep In Prayer*

Ruth Weaver, Donna Woodruff, Destinee Tackett, Sylvia Johnson, Clinton Wilson, Martha Scudder, Virginia Vice, Margaret Pyeatt, Theresa Rosales, Mary Lea Forsythe, Marilyn Peil, Elsie Jones, Pat Cheek, Michael Bostwick, Jay Moore, Jim Wilson, Cathy Hula

## *Acknowledgements*

**From Martha Scudder...** Thanks so much to the ladies for the cards, poinsettia plants and gift certificates I received for my birthday Saturday the 30th. It was fun having them eat with me also. It made my birthday special. God bless each one. Love, Martha



**SSUMC ECO-FRIENDLY  
Re-Usable Shopping Tote**

*Great for Christmas Shopping  
Or Christmas Gift Giving*

**Pick up several today  
Only \$5.00  
(at the Welcome Desk)**



**Use them for groceries and keep more plastic bags out of the landfill.**





## Crumbs From The Cracker

### News:

#### **the Awakening Vision:**

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

### **Blessed:**

As many of you have heard by now, whether it was at our parent/youth/youth volunteer meeting on Monday or if you were in church this past Sunday... the rumors are true. Jetonne and I will be moving on after December 24<sup>th</sup> to a new ministry opportunity in Broken Arrow. We are very blessed to have been able to serve alongside such an amazing volunteer team & staff, wonderful parents, awesome students, and great church family. We have been so privileged to receive our congregation's love, support, and encouragement for the past 3.5 years, and pray that God's blessings would be showered upon each one of you. We have loved every minute of ministry with our students and volunteers; each one of you will always hold a special spot in our hearts! Thank you for loving Jesus, and helping us grow spiritually in Him. We aren't gone till December 24<sup>th</sup> so we want to make sure we say goodbye and give hugs to all of you before that day! Love Jetonne & Graeme.

### **Christmas Card Mission:**

On December 4<sup>th</sup> we will be meeting at the Family Life Center at 6:30pm to make Christmas cards for the communal housing residents at Green Tree. These cards will be hand delivered by our students on December 11<sup>th</sup> during our Green Tree Christmas Party!

### **Christmas Party @ Green Tree:**

During the month of October our students and volunteers helped throw an incredible Halloween party for the residents at Green Tree. On December 11<sup>th</sup> they will be having another party!!! This time Christmas themed! We will be meeting at the Family Life Center at 5:30pm to load up the vans and head over to Green Tree. Following the party at Green Tree, we will head to China Ok for dinner. Please bring money for your dinner. Thanks!

### **Youth Hip-Hop Christmas Party:**

This year we will be throwing a Hip-Hop Christmas party for our students!!! This is going to be a super fun event for our students! We are asking the students to bring a \$10 dirty Santa gift this year! The more creative and ridiculous... the better! We will have a delicious coffee bar with a variety of tasty drinks!

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

### **Upcoming Dates:**

- \* **December 4<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Card Mission @ 6:30pm**
- \* **December 11<sup>th</sup> - Deliver Christmas Cards & Cookies Sing Songs with Green Tree.**
- \* **(Meet @ FLC @ 5:30pm Bring Money For China Ok after Green Tree)**
- \* **December 14<sup>th</sup> - Helping Hands Outreach @ 7:30am @ Fellowship Hall**
- \* **December 18<sup>th</sup> - Youth Hip-Hop Christmas Party! @ 6:30pm (\$10 Dirty Santa Gift)**
- \* **December 25<sup>th</sup> - No Youth**
- \* **January 1<sup>st</sup> - No Youth**



### **KidZone News**

Kids and parents...remember our dress rehearsal at 9:30am on Saturday, December 7. We will present our musical at 6pm on Sunday, December 8. Children need to be there at 5:30pm. We will have our birthday party for Jesus following.

Remember to mark your calendars for Christmas caroling on December 15<sup>th</sup>. Right after church we will eat pizza and leave after 2<sup>nd</sup> service.

See you Sunday!

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**  
**FLC-Family Life Center**

**Wednesday, December 4**

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, December 5**

11:00 a.m.-Needlers-Parlor  
5:30 p.m.-FLC in use  
6:30 p.m.-Faith Circle Potluck at the home of Janie Moore

**Friday, December 6**

9:00 a.m.-Filling Goody Bags  
3:30 p.m.-Are Class-F. Hall  
7:00 p.m.-Christmas Parade

**Saturday, December 7**

9:30 a.m.-Kingdom Kids Dress Rehearsal  
10:00 a.m.-FLC in use

**Sunday, December 8**

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

10:00 a.m.-Sunday School  
1:00 p.m.-Youth Mentor Group  
1:15 p.m.-Finance Meeting  
6:00 p.m.-Kingdom Kids Present *The Perfect Gift*

**Monday, December 9**

10:00 a.m.-Exercise to Music-FLC  
6:00 p.m.-Blue Devil Basketball Meeting-Parlor  
7:00 p.m.-Boy Scouts-FLC

**Tuesday, December 10**

6:30 p.m.-Priscilla Circle Christmas Party at the home of Virginia B.  
6:30 p.m.-Cub Scouts-FLC  
6:30 p.m.-Girl Scout Leader Meeting-F. Hall  
7:00 p.m.-Praise Team  
7:00 p.m.-Al-Anon-Upstairs

**Wednesday, December 11**

7:30 a.m.-Men's Breakfast-Crescent Café  
10:00 a.m.-Exercise to Music-FLC  
11:30 a.m.-SIA Potluck-F. Hall  
3:30 p.m.-Art Class-F. Hall  
5:30 p.m.-Youth-*The Awakening*-FLC  
6:00 p.m.-Chancel Ringers  
7:00 p.m.-Chancel Choir

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