



The Springs

Rev. Don Tabberer

March 12, 2014



*“Jesus did many other things as well. If all
FROM of them were recorded, I imagine the
THE world itself wouldn’t have enough room
PASTOR for the scrolls that would be
written.” (John 21:25)*

In this last verse of John’s gospel, the writer tells us that it would be impossible to write down every detail of Jesus’ life. Imagine the deeds of a single human being filling that many pages. Certainly the writer intends this to be hyperbole, but it nonetheless makes the point that Jesus did more in his short life than any other human being can even imagine doing.

“Imagine” – to form a mental image of something not actually present to the senses; to believe. *Imagine* is the theme of our journey through Lent this year. Sunday we encountered the story of the temptation of Jesus. In the coming weeks we will meet Nicodemus, the woman at the well, the man born blind, and other characters from Jesus’ life. We will be invited to imagine ourselves in each story and be challenged to imagine what these stories have to do with the way we live our lives today. We will imagine ourselves along the Palm Sunday Road. Then we will find ourselves sharing in the Last Supper, watching Jesus’ trial, and following him up the road to Calvary. Finally, we will imagine first, the confusion, and then the joy of realizing the truth of the Resurrection! What a great journey of imagination this Lent will be.

2014 also marks the 100th year of ministry by the Methodist Church in Sand Springs. Since 1914 there has been a Methodist congregation active in this community. In fact, for many years there were two – First Methodist Church and Prattville Methodist Church. These two congregations merged in 2000 to become Sand Springs United Methodist Church.

It is important that we honor these past one hundred years and celebrate the ministry and mission that has taken place under the leadership of the several congregations who have been part of the churches that ultimately came together to be SSUMC. There is no doubt that this community would have been poorer in the absence of this church.

One of the reasons why I chose “imagine” as our theme this Lent has to do with our celebration of this milestone anniversary. In spite of our 100 years of ministry, our church is not growing; in fact, we appear to be shrinking. It is not unusual to hear comments about the way things used to be, or the large youth group we once had, or the crowd of children who used to sit on the chancel steps during the children’s message on Sunday. Some offer us counsel on how a particular style of music or a change in our liturgy will help us turn the corner to higher attendance. Others suggest that more people will come if we did a better job at: (fill-in-the-blank). What is common in these comments is that they nearly all harken back to “the good old days” and cling to an image of “church” that no longer exists in our culture.

Every church growth study and all the evidence points to a new kind of church...a church that is more “out there” and less “in here”. Church is supposed to be about worship, praise, and service. So I invite us all to **IMAGINE**...imagine what our church would look like if everything we do, every decision we make, and every dollar we spend depended on God’s clear instruction. What should we do differently in the next hundred years? How can we better discern God’s call? What is the best use for our resources? Your immediate reaction to this challenge may be that we are already doing what God wants us to do; you would not be entirely incorrect. However, there is so much more for us to do. Young adults and youth want a church where they are actively pursuing solutions to the big-issue problems in our community and in our world. They do not care what songs we sing or what order of worship we use. What they care about is how we worship God when we are not in this building. That is a much harder form of praise and worship than anything we do on Sunday morning.

We must let go of the idea that if we do the right things people will come and imagine how Jesus wants us to **be** the church in a broken world.

*Imagine the possibilities,
Pastor Don*

SEMINARY LITE

Theological Education for the Laity

Spring 2014 Course

“United Methodist Heritage”

Saturday, April 5, 2014 (10 a.m. – 3 p.m.)

Boston Avenue United Methodist Church

1301 S Boston Ave, Tulsa, OK 74119

In this course we will examine the basics of our United Methodist identity: History, Polity, and Doctrine. Questions will be considered such as: Where do we come from as a denomination? What does John Wesley have to do with us today? How do we organize the denomination and why? What are the basic beliefs of United Methodists? Do I have to agree with them? Why do we baptize infants? And why does any of this matter?

Suggested Reading: *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (2012) pages 11-142.* Also consider reading the following sermons by John Wesley (available online):

***The Scripture Way of Salvation”
Catholic Spirit”
The Means of Grace”***

This is one of a series of classes being offered to help the laity learn more about our church and its mission in the world. This class is great for anyone, whether you are a new Methodist or have been a Methodist all your life. You will learn or refresh your memory on a number of topics that will help you better understand who we are as United Methodists. The fee for this class is \$50.00. Registration forms are available at: www.spst.edu/Seminary-Lite. Then click on the link for: Tulsa, OK Spring 2014 Date: United Methodist Heritage, April 5th. You may also call the church office with questions or help in getting registered.



March 11-SSUMC

March 18-First Presbyterian Church

March 25-St. Andrew Lutheran Ch.

April 1-First Christian Church

April 8-St. Patrick's Catholic Church

April 15-St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

Gospel Fest

Saturday, March 15

*Memorial Drive UMC-7903 E. 15th
A fun evening of Christian music and wor-
ship benefiting the Tulsa District UM
Campground-includes a silent auction!*

Admission-Free

(A love offering will be collected)

*Entertainment will include Tulsa Tradition,
QA VAH from Bixby UMC, St. Paul's Steel
Band, Eternity and Sound Decision
Doors open at 5 p.m. for auction, music
starts at 6 p.m.*

THANKS TO OUR BLUE DEVILS

Our Basketball team just finished another round of church league games. While they won a few and lost a few, the boys enjoyed their season and fans had a great time watching. You can be very proud of the dignity and Christian attitude they showed to the referees, coaches and opposing teams. They represented SSUMC well. A special thanks to Coach Doug, Alex Stockard and to Glenna for keeping the team on track.

SOMEONE'S PRAYING, LORD.....

Our church is very fortunate to have such an active prayer chain. Prayer requests are sent through on a daily basis, sometimes two or more at a time. About the time we might think there is a hopeless situation, word comes through telling of God's comfort and healing. Our prayer warriors never question the power of prayer and consider it a privilege to pray for your needs, great or small. We know we are making an impression on our youth when our college students send a text or phone call, asking for extra prayer during finals.

During Lent, as we make special efforts to enter into God's will for our lives, we know that happens through prayer and study. Let's continue being known in the community as "a praying church."

Virginia

what is \$1 a day?



or \$7 towards apportionments

A percentage of apportionment money goes to **the United Methodist Boys Ranch**, near Gore, and **the United Methodist Children's Home** (girls) in Tahlequah, both giving care and attention to ages 13-18.

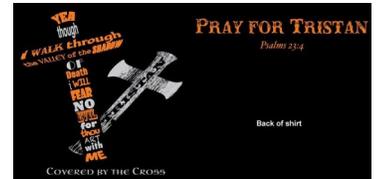


Could you give up something each day and give the money to apportionments?

of the facilities will be available to anyone who is interested. And we can spend more time with our friends. You may either drive yourself, or meet at the Church at 11 a.m. for car-pooling. We must have a head-count for lunch, so sign up with Max or Sharon Schuermann, or call 918-246-9159. Let's take a big group!

A Couple of Fund Raisers for Kids in Need...

Paige Pulscher is involved in a fund raiser for her nephew, Tristan who is undergoing treatment for an inoperable brain tumor. Because of where it is located, they are unable to thoroughly diagnose what type of tumor it is. He is only 13 years old. We have been praying for Tristan, for healing. The fund raiser is selling t-shirts for \$10. Money is due by Friday, March 14th and goes to help with the cost of gas for travel, lodging and food. Call Paige for more information-918-241-8837 or to order a shirt, e-mail her at okpulscher@cox.net



Custom Printed Black shirt with Orange and Gray artwork

ALSO...

Stefania Barnard is raising money for an 11th grader named Nique (Dominique) Ropp. She is having treatment for a very rare form of Lupus. She had to make an emergency trip to the Mayo Clinic and after many tests was diagnosed. She has a single mamma and a brother in 9th grade. Stefania has arranged a Pancake Breakfast for her on Saturday, March 29 from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Masonic Lodge on 113th Street. The Masonic Lodge will match the funds raised. For \$5 you can have pancakes, sausage and drinks. There is also a silent auction being offered with amazing baskets. If you would like more information or to donate a basket, call Stefania at 918-419-2491.



100 Years of History...

Be sure to stop by the history tables by the Sanctuary. There is a 2nd table that you won't want to miss!

SENIORS IN ACTION!!

This month, we'll gather at Montereau for a visit with our friends, Ray & Helen Canfield and Leonard & Leta Brehm. Montereau is treating us all to a lovely lunch on Friday, March 21 at 11:30 a.m. After lunch, a tour

Sunday Lists

Sunday Volunteers—March 16

Visitors Center & Coffee-UpRising Young Adults
 Head Usher-8:30 a.m.-Frank Johnston
 Head Usher-11:00 a.m.-Eddy David
 Young Disciples Lesson-8:30a.m.-Jami Warkentin
 Young Disciples Lesson-11:00a.m.-Jami Warkentin
 Child. Church-8:30 a.m.-Kingdom Kids
 Child. Church-11:00 a.m.-Amy & Lauren Miller
 Counters-Sheree Buttler & Jami Warkentin

Communion Servers

8:30	11:00
Jana Cheek	Raven Brumley
Don Cole	Eddy David
Lisa Comer	Jan Dickerson
Julie Ferguson	Eldin Fisher

Sunday Volunteers—March 23

Visitors Center & Coffee-UpRising Young Adults
 Head Usher-8:30 a.m.-Frank Johnston
 Head Usher-11:00 a.m.-Eddy David
 Young Disciples Lesson-8:30a.m.-Janet Parker
 Young Disciples Lesson-11:00 a.m.-Janet Parker
 Child. Church-8:30 a.m.-Kingdom Kids
 Child. Church-11:00a.m.-Susie Honeycutt & Family
 Counters-Janie Moore & Kent Warkentin

Communion Servers

8:30	11:00
Leesa Hairgrove	Dick Ford
Buster Hall	Jo Fritts
Julia Henry	Cathy Gifford
Katherine Reeves	Gerrie Holladay

Please Keep In Prayer

Ruth Weaver, Donna Woodruff, Destinee Tackett, Sylvia Johnson, Clinton Wilson, Martha Scudder, Virginia Vice, Margaret Pyeatt, Marilyn Peil, Michael Bostwick, Cathy Hula, Beverly Rousey, Charlotte Cain, Unspoken requests, Darryl Muse, Tristan Schwartz, Jim Wilson, Paul Waldschmidt, Nique Ropp

Acknowledgements

We Offer our Prayers and Sympathy...

...to the family and friends of Margaret Pyeatt, long time member who recently turned 100 years of age. She passed away March 4, 2014. Her services were at Mobley Dodson on Saturday, March 7th.

Thank You...

Thank you to the VOLUNTEERS who help me on the Newsletter-Bob & Billie Schmidt, June Shreffler, and Norma Jones. You guys do not know how much I appreciate you but it is a whole whole lot!!!

Also, thank you to Tara Carter for stepping up and taking care of all the needs in the pews so that on Sunday everything is available to everyone! You make my job so much easier!

I LOVE YOU GUYS! Tracey



The Awakening

The Awakening exists to...

"Teach students to genuinely honor Christ through service, reaching out to those around them, and building up a community based on love for one another"

Upcoming Events

March 12-The Awakening

March 19-No Youth

March 26-The Awakening @ Green Tree

March 27-March Madness Fundraiser

Update

I pray that each of you is doing well. And I also pray that as we have entered this Lenten season that you feel refreshed and will be able to refocus your lives on God.

Our March Madness Fundraiser is scheduled for March 27th. This is the annual tradition where the Blue Devils play a basketball game against the Men of the church. I plan to play with the men and will need some other men to make a team. If you want to or normally play on the team, email me at mgiovi@sandspringsumc.org. Also, I will need help with concessions and if you wish to volunteer for that, email me at the same email. This is one of the most fun fundraisers we do and would love for the church to come out and support the youth. Even if you do not like basketball, I imagine the game will be really entertaining so I hope to see everyone there!

Coming up in April will be our spaghetti lunch, although the date is not set quite yet. I hope to have that set in the next couple of weeks and will let you know what is decided.

Thank you all so much for making my fiancé, Jenny, and me feel so welcome and supported. Please continue to pray for us as we lead the student ministry.

You Fellow Servant,
Mark



We've started our lesson on The Garden of Gethsemane. If you have a chance come out to Caleb House to see it. The children are in need of regular-sized shoe boxes for this lesson series. If you have some please let Debbie or Marty know.

Thanks so much to everyone who helped in moving Kidzone out to Caleb House. It was a huge undertaking but we got it done in record time. The children are excited about their new space. There is still a lot of work to be done to get it set up and organized but that will take a few weeks.

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind parents and grandparents of our drop off and pick up policy. If children are in first service they will leave with their teachers right after the young disciples lesson in first service. If you don't attend first service and will be bringing your child to Sunday School you will need to take them out to Caleb House. After Sunday School children will need to be picked up in Caleb House by their parent unless other arrangements are made with the children's team workers. Children won't be allowed to go between buildings unattended. These are the same rules we have always had in place and follow our Safe Sanctuaries guidelines. During second service children will be dismissed for children's church with their teachers and parents will need to come to Caleb House to pick them up after church is over. Please see Debbie, Marty or Pastor Don if you have questions.

See you Sunday!

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

Wednesday, March 12

7:30 a.m.-Men's Breakfast—Crescent Café
10:00 a.m.-Exercise to Music
3:30 p.m.-NO 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, March 13

11:00 a.m.-Needlers-Parlor
5:30 p.m.-FLC in use
7:00 p.m.-Stewardship Meeting

Friday, March 14

6:00 p.m.-FLC in use

Saturday, March 15

No Activities

Sunday, March 16

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
2:30 p.m.-Church Council Meeting
5:30 p.m.-CIA/Pathfinders Party-F. Hall

Monday, March 17

10:00 a.m.-Exercise to Music-FLC
10:00 a.m.-Visual Disability Support Group-F. Hall
7:00 p.m.-Boy Scouts-FLC

Tuesday, March 18

12:00 p.m.-Lenten Lunch-1st Presbyterian Church
6:30 p.m.-Cub Scouts-FLC
7:00 p.m.-Praise Team
7:00 p.m.-Al-Anon-Upstairs

Wednesday, March 19

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
6:00 p.m.-Chancel Ringers
6:30 p.m.-NO Youth-FLC
7:00 p.m.-Chancel Choir

Thursday, March 20

5:30 p.m.-FLC in use

Friday, March 21

11:00 a.m.-Seniors In Action to Montereau
6:00 p.m.-FLC in use

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