

The Springs



Rev. Don Tabberer

August 13, 2014



Jesus Stills the Storm

When Jesus got into the boat, his disciples followed him. A windstorm arose on the sea, so great that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but Jesus was asleep. And they went and woke him up,

saying, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!" And he said to them, "Why are you afraid, you of little faith?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a dead calm. They were amazed, saying, "What sort of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?" (Matthew 8:23-27, NRSV)

On Sunday we talked about Matthew's account of Jesus walking on water in a storm and inviting Peter to join him. This text gives us another story about a storm that doesn't seem to concern Jesus very much. Storms – they are not uncommon events in Oklahoma and the term often describes the way our lives seem to be going. Thunder rolls, lightning flashes, and our lives get caught up in the swirling of a storm we cannot control. At some point we all find ourselves walking into or standing in the midst of or stepping out of the path of a storm that uproots and tosses parts of our life that we thought were safe, settled, and comfortable. When the storm hits we are seldom truly prepared for it; there is usually no early warning system; and we find ourselves dazed in the aftermath wondering where God was during that mess and why God let it happen to us.

Jesus asked his Disciples, "Why are you afraid?" To us, the answer may seem obvious – the boat is about to sink! Jesus has a whole different perspective on things. He talks about faith. In both of the "storm stories" in Matthew's gospel, Jesus chastises the disciples for their lack of faith. And I was reminded of a song...

*"When storms of life assail
When I am feeling frail.
I place my trust in You, O Lord,
You never fail."*

In both of these stories the disciples reach out to Jesus in the midst of their fear. They find themselves in the middle of a storm and **then** they cry out for help. I have to wonder if this is the model that Jesus set for us to follow. It seems to me that Jesus did things differently.

In Sunday's message I talked about creating calm before the storm. To do this requires that we develop a strong and consistent prayer life. The idea is that, if we find ways to communicate with God every single day, then the stormy days will be less stressful for us. I believe that is what Jesus did. We often hear of times that

Jesus spent time alone in prayer. He found time to talk with his father all the time, not just when times were the toughest. It seems to me that had to help when he then went to pray the night he was arrested; the events about to happen to him were less stressful because he knew that God was walking with him into the storm. Certainly, what Jesus suffered is beyond anything we can imagine and most-likely worse than any storm we will ever face. A common question for many of us is why God causes or allows bad things to happen. We want to blame somebody when a storm comes and God seems like the obvious target. Who else has the power to put these things in our life? God has the power over life and death; God created the world to work the way it does; what happens to us must be God's "fault." I don't believe that is how things work. History and the Bible show us that things happen to us; bad things happen; good things happen; life just happens. God's place in all of this has always been alongside us.

There are times in our life when there are no storms and everything goes along just fine. Then a crisis hits and our response reveals in whom we really have faith. Do we panic because we have been getting along just fine – all by ourselves, without God? Or do we remain calm because we have developed a relationship with God that trusts God through the good, the bad, and the ordinary? Can you imagine the great joy that would fill Jesus' heart when we stay confident in Him, no matter what lies ahead or what smacks us in the face?

When we lived in Mangum we attended our share of Rattlesnake Roundups. There is a safety training class that goes along with this event that has always stayed with me. When a rattlesnake is in the area you are told to "be a tree"; to stay absolutely still and let the snake pass you by, unthreatened. They demonstrate this by standing still as a rattlesnake slithers across the toes of their boots and then wanders off into the desert. I am not advocating that we all go out and test this theory. I am reminded, though, of Psalm 46:10 – "**Be still and know that I am God.**" Being still and allowing God's presence to fill your life will go a long way toward helping you withstand the onslaught of storms, even snakes.

***Be still and listen,
Pastor Don***

TOWN HALL MEETING – September 7th

In May we had our first “Town Hall Meeting” to discuss important matters facing the congregation; 62 people attended. Since that time, much has been done to work toward solutions to the issues raised at that meeting. One of the issues raised was finding better ways to facilitate communication with the whole congregation. Your leadership team has decided that the Town Hall format is a great way to aid in this effort. We plan to hold 3-4 Town Hall meetings each year to give you the opportunity to hear about what is going on in the church and to ask questions. These meetings will be somewhat informal and no voting will take place. They are intended to provide information and the chance for holy conferencing.

The next Town Hall Meeting will be held on Sunday, September 7, 2014 at 5:00 PM at the Family Life Center. This meeting will include a Pot Luck Supper. We will provide the drinks for this meal; all other items will come from you. Bring whatever you would like to share with the church. We hope that you will take the time to be with us for this important gathering.

ARISE – OCTOBER 12TH

Your leadership team has identified a need to re-focus our church on the mission God is calling us to. It is vital that we consider the best ways to allocate our resources to fulfill this mission. In addition, we are once again looking seriously at the relocation of the church to our south side property. As we consider the future of our church we are looking to a new process to help us identify and implement the changes that need to be made. This process is called **ARISE**. Please save the date: **Sunday, October 12th** for this important event. More information will be coming to you soon, but we are asking that you plan to be with us for the entire day that Sunday. We will start the day at 9:30AM. We will worship together and share a pot luck lunch together and then we will work together to engage the Arise process. The day will be led by Mike Wiley, from the Oklahoma United Methodist Foundation. Please plan to join us.

PASTOR’S BIBLE STUDY

The next installment of my regular Bible Study Group will use the book: **“Making Sense of the Bible”** by Adam Hamilton and begins on Monday, September 8th. This will be a seven-week study. This is one of the best books I have ever read on the subject of understanding Scripture from a 21st Century point-of-view. As usual, we will meet in the Fellowship Hall on Monday evenings, 6:30-8:00 PM and we will repeat the same class session on Wednesday mornings, 10:00-11:30 AM. You will need your Bible and a copy of Rev. Hamilton’s book. The book costs \$15.50 and may be ordered through the Church Office when you register for the class. You may also get the book for your Kindle or iPad through online vendors. To register for this class simply go to our website:

www.sandspringsumc.org and click on the box – Stuff TO DO. There you will find a link to the Pastor’s Bible Study that gives you more information, a video preview, and the registration form to sign-up for the class. It is very important that you register for this class and get a copy of the book. If you need assistance with the online enrollment process, please contact the Church Office and we will assist you.

NEW PRAYER GROUP FORMING

Beginning **Tuesday, September 9th at 10:00 AM** you are invited to participate in a new Intercessory Prayer Group. We will gather each week to pray for our church and the concerns we all share. There may also be a guided meditation, or other devotional. The group is open to anyone looking for another way to develop their personal prayer life. Join us and spend a little extra time with God. *(The coffee will be ready!)*

THE CHURCH IS BUILT ON PRAYER POWER! Please prayerfully consider meeting with us for a quiet moment of meditation and prayer. For any questions you might have, or to let us know you are interested, please see Virginia (918-245-9248) or Pastor Don. Let’s get excited about the new church year and rely on God to give us direction and wisdom to accomplish His will through ministry at SSUMC. Virginia



Needlers

We have decided to suspend meeting until Fall when we will consider starting again making plans for next year.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Janna Cheek will be leading a women's Bible study group beginning Thursday evening, September 4th at 6:00 PM at her home. The text for this study is **"Broken and Blessed"** by Jessica LaGrone. The study says that it deals with *"How God used one imperfect family to change the world."* This is a six-week study of The Book of Genesis that takes you on a journey with one perfectly imperfect family – from Adam and Eve all the way to Joseph and his brothers. Despite their brokenness, God chose to love and bless this family so that their blessings might overflow. This study gives us the confidence to know that every family can be used by God to bring blessing in a hurting and broken world.

To register for this class simply go to our website: www.sandspringsumc.org and click on the box – Stuff TO DO. There you will find a link to the **Women's Bible Study** that gives you more information, a video preview, and the registration form to sign-up for the class. It is very important that you register for this class and get a copy of the book. If you need assistance with the online enrollment process, please contact the Church Office and we will assist you.

T'ai Chi Chih Classes

Joy Through Movement

T'ai Chi Chih is a series of 20 easy-to-learn movements that are performed gently, slowly, and effortlessly. It does not require special athletic abilities or physical fitness, nor does it 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 and increases energy and mental clarity. It is wonderful for seniors looking for a place to exercise with others seniors. The classes are going to be

offered **Wednesdays from 10-11 a.m. at Angus Acres Baptist Church** located at 4401 S. 129th W. Avenue (across from Greentree). It is a **6-week course** and only costs **\$36**. The class will **Start September 17th**. For more information and to enroll, call Lana Bianchini at 918-633-1803 or Barbara Dinehart at 918-499-1441.



Newsletter Articles

Just a reminder that all articles for the newsletter should be submitted by 11:00 a.m. on Monday of Newsletter weeks. Below is the rest of 2014 newsletter weeks.

Newsletter Weeks...

August 25, September 8, September 22, October 6, October 20, November 3, November 17, December 1, December 15, December 29

Mark Your Calendar

This Sunday, there will be no communion at 9:45 a.m. The following Sunday, August 24th we will have meetings as follows:

- 1 p.m.-Finance Committee
- 2 p.m.—Trustee Committee
- 3 p.m.—Church Council Committee
- 4:30 p.m.—Stewardship Committee



OFFERING COUNTERS

- 8/17-Diana P. & Jack V.
- 8/24-Howard/Betty & Karen W.
- 8/31-Sondra B. & Dick F.
- 9/7-Sheree B. & Jami W.
- 9/14-Janie M. & Kent W.
- 9/21-Diana P. & Jack V.
- 9/28-Howard/Betty & Karen W.

- 10/5-Sondra B. & Dick F.
- 10/12-Sheree B. & Jami W.
- 10/19-Janie M. & Kent W.
- 10/26-Diana P. & Jack V.
- 11/2-Betty/Howard & Karen W.

Sunday Lists

Sunday Volunteers—August 17

Visitors Center & Coffee-Harmony
 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-Diana Pond & Jack Vest

Sunday Volunteers—August 24

Visitors Center & Coffee-Harmony
 Head Usher-11:00 a.m.-Eddy David
 Young Disciples Lesson-8:30a.m.-Marty David
 Young Disciples Lesson-11:00a.m.-Marty David
 Child. Church-8:30 a.m.-Kingdom Kids
 Child. Church-11:00 a.m.-Marty D. & Leesa H.
 Counters-Betty or Howard Smith & Karen Wilder

Please Keep In Prayer

Ruth Weaver, Destinee Tackett, Sylvia Johnson, Martha Scudder, Virginia Vice, Unspoken requests, Darryl Muse, Tristan Schwartz, Billie Schmidt, Irene Stogsdill, Owen Johnston, SSUMC, Lance Day, Susan Edwards, Ryan Bulmer, Mrs. Frank Dudek, Kason Tabor, Bob McFall

Acknowledgements

Thank You...

Thank you all for all your prayers and thoughts for my sister and my family for her healing. I really do appreciate my church family the way they are always there for everyone in the church, to support and give them the encouragement they (we) all need...Thanks again so much—Linda Garrison & Family, Barbara Lutts (my sister) & her family

*We want to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, food and visits. Billie is doing well and hopes to be back soon.
 Bob & Billie Schmidt*

SSUMC, Thank you for letting us use your gym for basketball practice....From the Coaches and the Eagles Basketball Team, Colin, Brett, Justin, Nelo, Jace and Ethan

Many Many thanks to all of the kitchen angels for the Bereavement Dinner help. For your cooking, baking and kitchen serving and clean up. You all are the best. The dinner went together beautifully as it always does. Thanks to Eldin Fisher and Don Cole for taking care of the set up and tear down. What would we do without you. If it comes to food, we Methodist know how to get the job done! Thanks Again—Maureen Gibson

Our Prayers and Sympathy...

To Ralph Ward for the death of his father, Ralph Ward, Sr.

Congratulations...

To Marcus & Kristin Sewell for the birth of Lucas Brian Sewell born August 3, 2014.



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

August 13th – Back to School Party

August 16th – Float Trip

August 20th – Vision Night

Update

I hope that you all are doing well and that your summer was fun and brought you plenty of rest.

It is hard to believe that school is one week away, summer flew by and we will back in the swing of school very quickly.

This week to have a little fun before we go back to school, we will be having a back to school party at the Stockard's home (6535 S 123rd W Ave, Sapulpa, OK 74066) beginning at 6:30. We will be grilling out burgers and hot dogs, eating snow cones, and hanging out having a good time together. It should be a great time to relax a little bit as a student ministry before school picks up.

This coming Saturday, we will be going on our Float Trip. The cost is \$25 a person and we will be going to Eagle Bluff in Tahlequah. The plan is to meet at the church around 8 in the morning, get out there as soon as we can and float on the river. The students will need to bring a sack lunch just in case we are on the river for a while.

The following week is our Vision Night where we have a chance to sit down as a student ministry and cast our vision for the next year. I highly encourage your students to attend

Your Fellow Servant,
Mark



KidZone...

In KidZone the children are continuing their lesson on the woman at the well and her encounter with Jesus. They are also working on the Jonah

musical with Ms. Cathy to be performed sometime this fall. The children have their scripts and should be working on them.

Ms. Marty and Ms. Debbie will be praying for the children and their families as they start a brand new school year.

KidZone is also looking for baby food jars with lids. If you have any that you could donate please take them out to Caleb House.

Have a great week! See you Sunday!

New Office Hours



Monday—Thursday
8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Offices will now be
CLOSED ON FRIDAY.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
FLC-Family Life Center

Wednesday, August 13

7:30 a.m.-Men's Breakfast—Crescent Café
6:30 p.m.-The Awakening Youth
6:00 p.m.-Chancel Ringers
7:00 p.m.-Chancel Choir

Thursday, August 14

6:30 p.m.-FLC Yard in use
7:00 p.m.-FLC in use

Friday, August 15

No Activities

Saturday, August 16

8:00 a.m.-Youth Float Trip

Sunday, August 17

8:30 a.m.-Modern Worship; 11:00 a.m.-Classic Worship
10:00 a.m.-Sunday School; NO 9:45 a.m. Communion
1:00 p.m.-Youth Mentor Group

Monday, August 18

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

Tuesday, August 19

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

Wednesday, August 20

7:30 a.m.-Men's Breakfast-Crescent Café
6:00 p.m.-Chancel Ringers
6:30 p.m.-Youth Vision Night-FLC
7:00 p.m.-Chancel Choir

Thursday, August 21

6:30 p.m.-FLC Yard in use
7:00 p.m.-FLC in use

Friday, August 22

No Activities

Saturday, August 23

No Activities

Sunday, August 24

8:30 a.m.-Modern Worship; 11:00 a.m.-Classic Worship, 9:45 a.m.-
Service of Communion; 10:00 a.m.-Sunday School
1:00 p.m.-Finance
2:00 p.m.-Trustees
3:00 p.m.-Church Council
4:30 p.m.-Stewardship

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

Return Service Requested

Questions about SSUMC Women?

Priscilla: Trish House-918-245-5508

Ruth Esther: Barbara Fisher (Mrs. Connie)-918-241-9859

Faith: Rita Randall: 918-224-8482