

# The Springs



Rev. Don Tabberer



*"Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness,*

*slander. These are what defile a person."* (Matthew 15:17-20, NRSV)

On Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, Charlottesville, Virginia was the scene of one of the worst examples of racism and bigotry in recent memory. The response from nearly everyone was quick and articulate in condemning these events for exactly what they were – hate speech and a hate crime; this was domestic terrorism; this was sin. During the time since this tragedy, I have listened to countless news stories, read many different perspectives in the news media, liberal and conservative. I have seen so many Facebook posts about individual outrage from various points of view. Depending on who you listen to, this is a political problem or it is a tolerance problem or it is an education problem. My view is that this represents a fundamental moral problem.

Our President has been widely criticized for his comments about this event. The consensus seems to be that his remarks were more political than moral and that he should have been clearer in his condemnation of the neo-Nazi, white supremacist, white nationalist movement that lies at the heart of the Charlottesville demonstrations. It is not my job to speak for the President and I cannot say what motivated his remarks or what considerations he included in his decision to say what he said. I have no doubt that the media will continue to analyze every angle of that weekend. There will be lots of political hubbub about such things as free speech; civil rights; the meaning of various laws; and the responsibility of law enforcement to keep people safe. These are important conversations and they need to take place. However, I believe that the fundamental moral issue at play here is far more important than any of the political conversations that may result. It is vital that our leaders cast a vision that accurately identifies that which is "evil" vs that which is "good." It is essential that our leaders make this moral distinction unambiguously clear.

Bigotry, racism, white supremacy, in all its forms is sin; it is sin against God and against humanity. There is no moral ambiguity here. Timothy Tennent, President of Asbury Theological Seminary, shared this: "The moral question was actually explicitly "named" when the President was asked, "Are your statements creating a moral equiva-

*lency between the two sides?" On Saturday, and again on Tuesday, we got nothing but moral confusion. In fact, our President specifically stated, "I am not putting anybody on a moral plane." But, that, of course, is precisely what must be done in these type situations. There can be no moral ambiguity which creates any kind of equivalency between a neo-Nazi and a young woman who was exercising her freedom of speech. Neo-Nazis, White Supremacists, KKK, and associated groups espouse beliefs which are repugnant and obnoxious to the American cultural fabric. As Christians, we must also state that ideas espoused by neo-Nazi, KKK, and White Supremacists are ultimately an attack on God the Father as creator, who created all men and women, of every ethnicity, in his image, and all are equal bearers of his providence and mercy. It is an attack on God the Son who died for every person, of every race. It is also an attack on the Holy Spirit who indwells men and women with his divine presence and empowers us to participate with him as His ambassadors to a world in pain."*

There are those who may say that pastors should keep their political opinion to themselves; much of the time, this is correct. However, as I said earlier, this is not about politics – it is about fundamental morality. It is my job to speak truth to power and to make sure that the message of Jesus Christ is clear. The United Methodist Book of Discipline states: "Therefore, we recognize racism as sin and affirm the ultimate and temporal worth of all persons. We rejoice in the gifts that particular ethnic histories and cultures bring to our total life. We commit as the Church to move beyond symbolic expressions and representative models that do not challenge unjust systems of power and access."

Unless you are genetically Native American, everyone reading this is in this country because of an ancestor who came here from somewhere else. There is no room for "white nationalism" in this country. The idea of a pure Caucasian race was the dream of Adolf Hitler, not of anyone who believes in the freedoms upon which this country was founded. We must not allow the ideals of a few misguided individuals, who profess to be Christians, overcome the true message of Jesus. Jesus was not a racist; he was born into a minority race. He had dark skin and would have been racially profiled by today's law enforcement. Racism can be subtle and take many forms. Please, be vigilant and guard against it. Please, speak up when you encounter it. Please, pray that God's will may be done on earth.

*God bless,  
Pastor Don*



## UMW News

Thank you to all those who brought food for the Unit Meeting and helped set-up and take down this month.

Cynthia and Timothy Alex explained what it means to be a Covenant Community- (one of the Mission Studies at Mission U in July.) Cynthia also showed samples of the sewing projects in our Mission to Stitch Ministry. If you like to sew, crochet or knit, come join the group! We meet at 1:30 pm on the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

## Calendar Events

September 7-5:30pm-Executive Committee Meeting in the CIA/Pathfinders Classroom.

September 9-Council Oak District Meeting at Faith UMC from 9:30 to 3:00. Let Leesa Hairgrove know if you want to attend. We will carpool. There is a luncheon so they need to know how many are coming from our church by September 1. Speakers: Debbie Humphries, Director at Cookson Hills and Stacey Ninnes, Director of Neighborhood Service Org.

October 6-7 OK. UMW Conference Meeting-Boston Ave. UMC. Make plans to attend. It is close by this year!

## Circle Meetings

Faith Circle—August 24—6:30 p.m.-Hostess and Program is Karen Wilder. September 28th is Tara Carter  
Priscilla Circle—August 22—6:30 p.m.-Salad supper at Kay Woodward's. Co-hostess is Geri Waldschmidt and Program is Trish House. September 26th is Kathy Morris and Jo Fritts.

Ruth Esther Circle—September 28—1:00 p.m.- Hostess is Barbara Fisher, Program is JoAnn Nelson and Devotion is Chloeen Oney.

OUR WORK IN MISSION NEVER ENDS!

Judy Bullard



## Hey Kids

It was great to see you everyone yesterday. We talked about the importance of prayer and to "get praying and keep praying". Be

sure to come next Sunday as we will begin a new Bible story. Have a great week -wishing all of you a great school year!

Miss Debbie and Miss Marty

Let's remember to keep our  
**STUDENTS** and **TEACHERS** in  
our **PRAYERS** as they head



Here are your  
**2017 Newsletter**  
weeks. Please  
remember-articles are  
due by 11 a.m. on this  
date. Please, mark  
your calendars.

|              |                 |
|--------------|-----------------|
| September 18 | October 2       |
| October 16   | October 30      |
| November 13  | November 27     |
| December 11  | January 8, 2018 |
| August 21    |                 |
| September 4? |                 |



## Here is some of your 2017 Youth Dinner Schedule

August 23-CIA/Pathfinders  
August 30-Faith Circle  
September 6-TNT  
September 13-Ruth Esther Circle  
September 20-Seniors In Action  
September 27-Priscilla Circle  
October 4-Noah/Searchers  
October 11-Youth  
October 18-CIA/Pathfinders  
October 25-Faith Circle

## *Sunday Lists*

### **Sunday Volunteers—August 27**

Visitors Center & Coffee: TNT  
Head Usher-8:30am: Amanda Honeycutt  
Head Usher-11:00am: Eddy David  
Child. Church: 8:30am: Kingdom Kids  
Teaching: Jami Warkentin  
Children's Church: Lisa Massey  
Counters: Betty or Howard Smith

### **Sunday Volunteers—September 3**

Visitors Center & Coffee: TNT  
Head Usher-8:30am: Amanda Honeycutt  
Head Usher-11:00am: Eddy David  
Child. Church-8:30am: Kingdom Kids  
Teaching: Jami Warkentin  
Children's Church: Communion  
Counters: Sondra Allen & Dick Ford



### **Volunteer Opportunity**

We are in need of someone to fill in on the e-mail prayer chain when I am on vacation. No experience necessary! Must have e-mail and must check it daily.

We also need someone to do the e-mail prayer chain every weekend. All you have to do is send e-mail prayer chains as they come in to your inbox or are called in to you.

See me (Tracey) if you are interested or call,  
918-245-5955

Thanks!  
Tracey

## *Please Keep In Prayer*



### ***Please remember these in your prayers:***

*Martha Scudder, Linda Tabberer,  
Charlene Reeves, Montie Box, Greta  
Green, Bob & Cathy Hula, Max  
Schuermann, David Allen, Elsie Jones,  
Sue & Jim Shaw, BW Proft, Lora Cavi-  
ness, Albert Kahl's mom & sister in  
law, John & Sylvia Johnson, Bill &  
Clare Caldwell, Jack & Jewell Brown, Barbara McClintock,  
Angy Krebs-Warden, Ron Hay, Ruth Weaver, Susan Ed-  
wards*

If someone needs to be added to the prayer list  
or someone was taken off too soon,  
please contact Tracey in the front office  
so the prayer list can be updated.

## **Fourth Monday** **COMMUNITY MEAL**

4th Monday of the Month  
Fellowship Hall • 5:30-7:00 p.m.

## **Monday, August 28**

*The Newsletter and other  
SSUMC information and activities are  
always posted on our website at:  
[www.sandspringsumc.org](http://www.sandspringsumc.org)*

### **OFFICE HOURS**

Monday-Thursday—8:00 a.m.-4:00p.m.  
Lunch—12-1 p.m.  
Front door is lock during office hours at all times.  
Ring the bell to be clicked in.  
Use your key only after there is no response after  
ringing the bell.



# REAL DISCIPLESHIP SURVEY

All churches in the Oklahoma Annual Conference now have access to the Real Discipleship Survey online. This system, designed by Phil Maynard, offers a way for churches to survey their maturity on six dimensions of the discipleship journey. This service is offered to all OKUMC churches free of charge.

The survey measures: a life of worship, a life of hospitality, a life open to Jesus, a life of obeying Jesus, a life of service, and a life of generosity.

Upon taking the survey, participants discover if they are exploring, beginning, growing, or maturing in each of those categories.

1.) Sign Up: Visit: <http://discipleshipsurvey.com/member.html> and enter our conference code: PEACEJOY

2.) Create Account: In order to take the Real Discipleship Survey online you will need to enter an email address and create a secure password. Choose your District (COUNCIL OAK) and your church from the dropdown lists, fill out the email and password fields and then click the blue "Sign Up" button. Use the click here link on the next screen to continue. You can also access the survey by visiting <http://discipleshipsurvey.com/memberlogin.html> after creating your account.

3.) Log In: Enter the password and email address you provided in step 2 in order to log in.

4.) Choose Your Groups: We have chosen to measure the survey statistics both at the churchwide level and by individual church groups. Use the blue "Edit Profile" button to select the group(s) to which you belong. (ie: Church Council, Teachers/Leaders, etc.) Simply choose YES for those groups to which you belong.

5.) Take Survey: Take the Real Discipleship Survey by clicking the blue "Take Survey" button and then selecting the one box of each color that fits you best. After completing the survey use the blue "Submit Survey" button. Your results will be displayed for you at that time. You may also select to view additional information or have your results sent to your email account. You may use <http://discipleshipsurvey.com/memberlogin.html> to log in and view your results at any time. You will also be able to retake the survey at a later date in order to measure changes in your discipleship over time.

Thank you so much for participating. If you know someone who may need help completing this survey, please reach out to help them or contact the Church Office for assistance.

**Annual Labor Day Reunion at Exodus House**  
**Monday, September 4**  
**6-8 p.m.**  
**2624 E. Newton Street**  
**Tulsa, OK 74110**

**Good Food, Great Fellowship and a wonderful time to visit  
with everyone!**

**Everyone's invited... former residents of Exodus House, Present and past Redemption Participants, All Volunteers and Friends of these Ministries!**

**Menu: Pulled Pork, Buns, Baked Beans, and Beverages will be provided. Others - please bring a salad or dessert to share.**

***Valet Service provided! Drive into Exodus House Parking Lot, leave food and passengers. The shuttle van will follow you to parking at Newton Street and N. Lewis, and return you to Exodus House, plus help retrieve vehicles when you are ready to leave.***

***Lawn Chairs would be helpful!***

***Call Darlene, [918-231-4013](tel:918-231-4013) or Virginia - [918-231-8341](tel:918-231-8341) to let us know you will be coming. We want to be ready with plenty of food!***

***Hosts: Exodus House Residents and Staff, E-Team and Apartment Sponsors.***

***(The E-Team is the task group that gives special support to Exodus House Events)***

***Please invite others you think would like to join us!***

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR SAND SPRINGS UMC

### Monday, August 21-No Tracey

7:00pm-Boy Scouts-FLC

### Tuesday, August 22

6:30pm-Priscilla Circle Salad Supper-Kay W.

7:00pm-Praise Team Practice

7:00pm-Al-Anon-Upstairs

### Wednesday, August 23

7:30am-Men's Breakfast-Crescent Café

5:45pm-Y4Y

6:30pm-The Awakening—Youth

7:00pm-Chancel Choir Practice

### Thursday, August 24

6:30pm-Faith Circle-Parlor

\*7:00pm-Collins Karate-FLC

### Friday, August 25

No Activities

### Saturday, August 26

No Activities

### Sunday, August 27

8:30am-Contemporary Worship

9:45am-Communion Service

10:00am-Sunday School

11:00am-Traditional Worship

### Monday, August 28

5:30pm-4th Monday Community Dinner-F. Hall

7:00pm-Boy Scouts-Family Life Center

### Tuesday, August 29

7:00pm-Praise Team

7:00pm-Al-Anon-Upstairs

### Wednesday, August 30

7:30am-Men's Breakfast-Crescent Café

5:45pm-Y4Y

6:30pm-Youth-FLC

7:00pm-Chancel Choir

### Thursday, August 31-No Tracey

\*7:00pm-Collins Karate-FLC

*FLC-Family Life Center*

*\*-Not sponsored by  
SSUMC but welcome*

*For more calendar  
information, call the  
office at  
918-245-5955.*

### **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)**

