

The Springs



Rev. Don Tabberer



"Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God...Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another."

other."

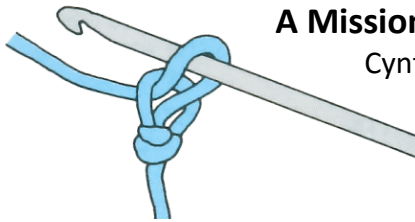
(1 John 4:7, 11, NRSV)

The events that I see reported every day in the news lead me to think that much of the world has forgotten that God's world was created based on love. God created us to be loving, caring beings that nurture one another and seek ways that everyone might feel welcome and loved as well. Yet, there seems to be a selfish part of us that explodes into our culture and seeks to drown out the command to love. What else can explain our penchant toward violence instead of understanding? What else can lead to war over communication? Somewhere, possibly on all sides, the issues that plague our world lead back to selfishness. Individuals, communities, and nations seem to be looking out for themselves instead of seeking what is best for the entire world. God's Creation is so much bigger than any one person or country; God gave us a world to share and care for. Selfishness, however, is destroying what God planned from the outset. We seem, to be afraid of each other; we live in a world of strangers and I wonder if we really want to get to know those who are not us.

"Welcoming strangers is a privilege and a blessing. When we open our lives and receive the stranger, we are changed. We experience the world through their eyes and see life anew; host and guest both experience blessing. But hospitality is not always easy. Hospitality can be inconvenient, disruptive, and even risky. [John] Wesley reminds us that God welcomes us first through, 'free, almighty grace' (Sermon 43: "The Scripture Way of Salvation"). Because God welcomes us we can welcome others, especially strangers who are vulnerable and without resources. When we welcome 'the least of

these,' we welcome Jesus (Matthew 25:40). We do not screen strangers to determine who is worthy of welcome because we know Jesus is present there. For Wesley, the life of a 'genuine Christian' is infused with God's love so that acts of mercy, such as welcoming the stranger, are at the heart of witness. God receives us with open arms. We receive others with open arms, and thereby receive the blessing of Christ with us." (Wesley Study Bible, page 1526) Theologian N.T. Wright suggests that we followers of Christ are reluctant to really get to know Jesus deeply because, when we do, we begin to realize the full intent of the Good News of the Kingdom of God on earth. The Good News is that God intends for humanity to learn how to live together on earth "**as it is in heaven**". To do so means to set aside our selfishness and understand that every single living creature on the planet is created by and loved by God. All of humanity must begin to realize that the only way we can survive is if we survive together, and the only way we can survive together is if we learn to love one another as God has loved us. It is a tall order and it applies to all of us: Americans, and those who live in other countries. It applies to Christians, Muslims, Jews, and all others. It applies to those who live within the law and those who choose to live outside it. It is a commandment that is absolutely impossible for us to obey – **by ourselves**...This is where we all must learn to believe in and trust the one true God who is the only one who can help us learn how to accomplish this lofty goal. As we seek that day when God's kingdom comes to rule this world, we must continue to do all that we can to love and welcome others. We must be willing to **risk everything** to show people the love of Jesus Christ.

*Seeking to love more,
Pastor Don*



A Mission to Stitch

Cynthia Alex is wanting to start a crochet group. If you are interested in getting together to fellowship and cro-

chet, let Cynthia know at 918-865-3645. You will meet once a month here at the church.



Hey kids-

Hi from Kidzone Power Lab!

We are having a great time being "professors" and doing fun experiments while learning about Jesus and his

great power in our lives. Our first lesson was about Jesus healing 10 lepers and how He gives us the power to be thankful. Sunday we learned about Jesus healing the blind man. Remember to help others this week and that Jesus gives us the power to help others.

Be sure to come next Sunday so we can share how you helped others and add some more balloons to our beaker. Have a wonderful week in school. See you on Sunday!

Miss Debbie and Miss Marty



Seniors In Action! Our next outing will be a guided tour of John 3:16's Homeless Shelter on Friday, Sept. 2nd. We all know about, and perhaps contribute to, this highly respected mission in Tulsa. It should be interesting to see first-hand how they help the homeless and hungry folks of our area. There is no charge for the tour, but we are asking for a small contribution from each of you to help their cause. We will eat lunch following the tour (eatery to be announced later). Please meet at church to car-pool BY 10 AM Friday, Sept. 2nd.



We try hard to adequately advertise our events by posting a flyer in our allotted spot in the foyer at church, and by handing out flyers containing all pertinent information for each event. PLEASE read your flyer so you know about the event, and PLEASE, if we ask for it, sign-up or call us about your intention to come. A head-count is very important in some cases. We enjoy planning these events, but we really need your cooperation!

We ARE taking a head-count for this event, SO . . . PLEASE SIGN UP with Max or Sharon, or call [918.246.9159](tel:918.246.9159).

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts, Max & Sharon

Prayer & Healing Service

Sunday, August 28

6-7 p.m.

I (Tracey) am out of the office the week of August 29. I will return on September 6.

Have a safe and happy Labor Day!

Sunday Lists

Sunday Volunteers—August 28

Visitors Center & Coffee-TNT

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

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

Teaching: Jami Warkentin

Child. Church-11:00 a.m.-Amanda Honeycutt

Counters-Betty or Howard Smith & Karen Wilder

Sunday Volunteers—September 4

Visitors Center & Coffee-CIA/Pathfinders

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

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

Teaching: Jami Warkentin

Child. Church-11:00 a.m.-Marty David

Counters-Sondra Allen & Dick Ford

September Coffee: CIA/Pathfinders

Please Keep In Prayer



Martha Scudder, Linda Tabberer, Elsie Jones, Bob & Cathy Hula, BW Proft, Bill & Clare Caldwell, Darryl Muse, Jack & Jewell Brown, Owen Johnston, Tristan Schwartz, Charlene Reeves, Delbert Sloan, Darin Grayson, Mark Hill, Pauline Hanigar, Glenda Paul-Reyna, Barbara McClintock, Monti Box, SSUMC & Unspoken Requests

Acknowledgements

Just a small reminder...

If you use the Family Life Center and fill up or put food in the trash cans. Please be sure to take the trash out after your event.

The trash carts need to be pulled
all the way out to the sidewalk curb.

Thanks!



Here are your
2016 Newsletter
weeks. Please
remember-articles are
due by 11 a.m. on this
date. Please, mark
your calendars.

August 22
September 5
September 19
October 3
October 17
October 31
November 14
November 28
December 12
January 9, 2017



Here is some of your 2016 Youth Dinner Schedule

8/24-TNT
8/31-Ruth Esther Circle
9/7-Seniors In Action
9/14-Priscilla Circle
9/21-Noah/Searchers
9/28-Harmony



Here is some of your 2016 Children's Church Schedule

8/28-Amanda Honeycutt
9/4-Marty David
9/11-Katherine Reeves
9/18-Kat Katzung
9/25-Jo Fritts
10/2-Debbie Schmidt
10/9-Susie Honeycutt

Help Wanted

**We are seeking nursery
attendants to start immediately.
Please contact the Church Office.**

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday

8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Closed 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. for Lunch

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR SAND SPRINGS UMC
Monday, August 22-Newsletter Articles due by 11:00 a.m.
5:30pm-Community Dinner-F. Hall
6:30pm-Bible Study-Upstairs
7:00pm-Boy Scouts-FLC

Tuesday, August 23
5:30pm-Cub Scouts-FLC
6:30pm-Priscilla Circle-Home of Kay W.
7:00pm-Praise Team
7:00pm-Al-Anon-Upstairs

Wednesday, August 24
7:30am-Men’s Breakfast-Crescent Café
6:30pm-The Awakening—Youth
7:00pm-Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, August 25
7:00pm-Faith Circle-Parlor
*7:00pm-Collins Karate-FLC

Friday, August 26
FLC in Use

Saturday, August 27
No Activities

Sunday, August 28
8:30am-Contemporary Worship

9:45am-Communion Service
10:00am-Sunday School
11:00am-Traditional Worship
6:00pm-Prayer & Healing Service

Monday, August 29
6:30pm-Bible Study-F. Hall
7:00pm-Boy Scouts-Family Life Center

Tuesday, August 30
5:30pm-Cub Scouts-FLC
7:00pm-Praise Team Rehearsal
7:00pm-Al-Anon-Upstairs

Wednesday, August 31
7:30am-Men’s Breakfast-Crescent Café
6:30pm-The Awakening—Youth
7:00pm-Chancel Choir

Thursday, September 1
*7:00pm-Collins Karate-FLC

Friday, September 2
10:00am-SIA Carpool to John 3:16

FLC-Family Life Center
**-Not sponsored by SSUMC but welcome*
For more calendar information, call the office at 918-245-5955.

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918-245-5955 Fax-918-245-2801
Family Life Center: 918-245-3725
www.SandSpringsumc.org