

The Springs



Rev. Don Tabberer

August 27, 2014



"Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing: now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." (Isaiah 43:18-19, NRSV)

Isaiah wrote to the people of Israel during the Babylonian exile. His job was to speak to people who felt abandoned, helpless, and hopeless. He wanted to rebuild their understanding that God was fully capable of taking on the power of Babylon and restore Israel to the Promised Land. We also see that many of the exiles had become so accustomed to their plight that they had grown complacent and given in to the culture in which they lived. They had forgotten God and lost sight of who they were as God's people. Isaiah spoke to help them see that God can take even the worst of circumstances and create something new.

I cannot help but hear Isaiah speaking to the church today. It seems that we have become complacent and given in to the culture; we have forgotten whose we are; we may even feel abandoned by God and simply go through the motions of playing church week after week. *(Please know that I am speaking of The Church, in general, and I am not picking on SSUMC.)* Christians "do church" out of habit; we come to worship because we are "supposed to." Tradition and doctrine govern us more than the power of the Holy Spirit. We hang on to who we used to be and fail to see who God wants us to become. We keep doing what we've always done and ignore what God is calling us to do. It really is a lot easier to stay the same than it is to make the effort to change.

Isaiah cautions the people to let go of their past; he is not saying they should forget about it, however. He wants them to view the past as a way to imagine the future. He wants them to think about the things they did so they can **imagine the things they have yet to do**. This is about using tradition and memory to inspire new vitality, energy, and creativity. *"I am about to do a new thing: now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"*

With our Centennial Celebration earlier this year and all the talk about change in our church, you may be tired of hearing me talk about how we need to change the way we do things. Please hear that this is not another one of those messages. Today I am thinking more about "the church," not just our church. I believe that God is promising to do new and great things through God's people in the world. What concerns me is that God's people don't

seem to be very interested in letting God do this new thing. We seem to be content to let things rock along with an occasional, "Isn't that a shame?" or "It is what it is." I wonder if we have spent so much time "in exile" that we have forgotten that God is still alive and well and living throughout the universe. I wonder if we feel so abandoned and helpless and hopeless that we can't see where God is already making something new. Isaiah says to us, *"...do you not perceive it?"*

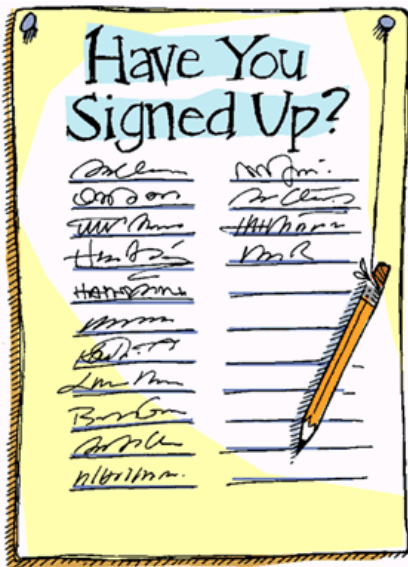
Isaiah wants the people to let go of their past while, at the same time, taking inspiration from the fact that God worked then for their good and God is still working for their good and God will keep working for their good into the future. This is a message of great hope for the people. In the midst of one of the darkest times in Israelite history God promises not to abandon them. Isaiah challenges them to open their eyes and recognize that God wants to work with them and through them to bring this new thing springing forth.

At a time when mainline churches seem to be faltering and dying all around us; when church no longer seems to be a priority for young families and young adults; when our culture seems to think that God is no longer relevant, God speaks out of the past into our present calling us into the future. We look around and ask why people don't go to church anymore; we wonder what we're doing wrong or what those other guys are doing so right; we look for ways that we can do something different to bring people in. What we forget is that this is not about us – it is about God and God is the one doing the new thing; God is the one seeking the lost; God is the one with all the Good News to tell. God still says that a new thing is springing forth; God is still making a way in the wilderness and causing rivers to flow in the desert. Isaiah speaks a word of hope to us and to God's church in the world today. We must be willing to listen and pay attention to this message. The church today cannot afford to be complacent and simply "fit in" to the culture into which it has been exiled. We must watch for the new things God is doing and be ready to go along on the journey. A journey through the wilderness will be hard, but the grace and power of God prevailed in the past and will do so in the future.

***Behold the new thing God offers,
Pastor Don***

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.

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.

TOWN HALL MEETING – September 7th

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.

what is \$1 a day?



or \$7 towards apportionments

A percentage of apportionment money goes to **Cookson Hills Center**, located in Cookson in Northeast Oklahoma, which provides outreach ministries to low-income families in Cherokee, Adair and Sequoyah counties.



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

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!)*

SOMEONE'S PRAYING, LORD.....

Have you ever prayed for something for so long that you gave up and kind of even forgot about the prayer? A year or two ago, I felt a burden to pray for those who have yet to enter our doors. I know others prayed that prayer also. I just realized that God is now answering our prayers. New people are coming through our doors every Sunday. There are families with youth and children looking for a church home. Several came during Bible School. Most are staying and want to be a part of our church ministries. Some

have joined and others are planning to make this their church home. Mark is making new contacts with youth in the community with the promise of growing our youth ministry. Thanks be to God! It's great to be a part of a congregation who not only prays for new people to come as guests, but also helps them feel welcome and offers opportunities to develop relationships with us as well as grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ.

COME PRAY WITH US. We hope you will join us on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 in the Church Parlor for a time of intercessory prayer. We will be praying specifically for God's direction for our church as well as for those who are experiencing health challenges or any other type of crisis in their lives. If you have questions or to let us know you are interested, please see Pastor Don or myself. We look forward to seeing you there. Virginia

BLOCK PARTY

SSUMC and St. Andrew Lutheran Church are partnering to host a Block Party at our Family Life Center on September 6 from 4-7pm. All church members are invited and encouraged to bring a friend! We will be inviting the neighborhoods around our church, the FLC and St Andrew to join us.

We will have food, games, music and LIVE ANIMALS!!! It doesn't get any better than that! Sunday School classes are asked to bring their game from VBS to play with the children.

There are ways YOU can help with the Block Party. First, please come and help us greet our neighbors. You can also help with one of the following:

- Set-up at 1:30pm. We will need help getting tables and chairs set up!
- A box of cake mix and can of frosting. The best part is you don't have to make it!! That's all we need is the mix and the frosting!!! Or you can donate a box of Little Debbie's. These will be used as prizes for the cake walk.
- Bring a homemade or store bought dessert to share after we eat. It doesn't have to be anything fancy. Cookies or brownies will be just fine!

We will have a schedule for the event posted at church on Sunday. If you have questions about the Block Party and how you can help please see Karen Wilder, Kristen Henry, or Amy Miller.

Sunday Lists

Sunday Volunteers—August 31

Visitors Center & Coffee-Harmony
Head Usher-11:00 a.m.-Eddy David
Young Disciples Lesson-8:30a.m.-Julie Ferguson
Young Disciples Lesson-11:00a.m.-Julie Ferguson
Child. Church-8:30 a.m.-Kingdom Kids
Child. Church-11:00 a.m.-Julie Ferguson & Katherine Reeves
Counters-Sondra Bogert & Dick Ford

Sunday Volunteers—September 7

Visitors Center & Coffee-Harmony
Head Usher-11:00 a.m.-Eddy David
Young Disciples Lesson-8:30a.m.-Kristen Henry
Young Disciples Lesson-11:00a.m.-Kristen Henry
Child. Church-8:30 a.m.-Kingdom Kids
Child. Church-11:00 a.m.-Kristen & Julia Henry
Counters-Sheree Buttler & Jami Warkentin

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, Paul Waldschmidt

Acknowledgements

Thank You...

Thank you for the kindness and the wonderful food provided to our family. Your love and thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

The Family of Matt McFarlin

Kimberly, Landon, David, Debbi and Barrett

Thank You...

Thank you to your congregation for their generous donations of much needed condiments. As you saw, they were much needed. We simply could not carry on without your prayers and generosity.

Larry



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

September 6th – Church Community Picnic

September 13th – Laser Quest

September 24th – See You at the Pole

Update

I hope that you are doing well and that you are beginning to get in the swing of things with school and everything else.

September is going to be a full and exciting month. The first event is our Church Community Picnic on September 6th. This will be taking place at the Family Life Center at noon. I hope to see your students there so we can hang, have fun, and meet some new people. Please make it a priority to attend with your students.

The following weekend we will be going to Laser Quest as a student ministry. We will go there at 5 o'clock, play for an hour or so and then go get some dinner then come back. It should be a fun event where your students can come and invite some of their friends.

The last event coming up in September is See You at the Pole. This is an excellent opportunity for your students to gather around the flag pole of their school and pray over their classmates, teachers, and the year as a whole. That evening we will be having our Saw You at the Pole rally, which will be taking place in the auditorium at Charles Page High School. We will be bringing in an exciting speaker and a great local worship leader so I hope that all of your students will attend this exciting event!

Your Fellow Servant,
Mark



KidZone...

In KidZone we just finished our lesson on the woman at the well and her encounter with Jesus. Even though she was different and shunned by many, Jesus didn't shun her. That is definitely a great lesson for all of us. The children will be presenting their musical about Jonah in just a few weeks during

worship. If your child has a speaking part we really need them to come to practices during Kingdom Kids on Sunday. If you have questions please see Cathy Gifford.

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!

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.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
FLC-Family Life Center
***Un-sponsored Event**

Wednesday, August 27

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 28

9:00 a.m.-UMW cleaning Memorial Flowers-FLC Kitchen
6:30 p.m.-Faith Circle Night Out
6:30 p.m.-FLC Yard in use
7:00 p.m.-*Karate-FLC

Friday, August 29

9:30 a.m.-UMW cleaning Memorial Flowers-FLC Kitchen

Saturday, August 30

No Activities

Sunday, August 31

8:30 a.m.-Modern Worship; 11:00 a.m.-Classic Worship
10:00 a.m.-Sunday School; 9:45 a.m. Communion
1:00 p.m.-Youth Mentor Group

Monday, September 1-Labor Day

Offices Closed

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

Tuesday, September 2-No Tracey

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

Wednesday, September 3-No Tracey

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

Thursday, September 4

9:30 a.m.-UMW cleaning Memorial flowers-FLC Kitchen
6:00 p.m.-Women's Bible Study-Home of Janna Cheek
6:30 p.m.-FLC Yard in use
7:00 p.m.-*Karate-FLC

Friday, September 5

11:00 a.m.-UMW cleaning Memorial Flowers-FLC Kitchen

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



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

CLOSED 12-1 p.m.

The offices are now
closed on Friday.

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