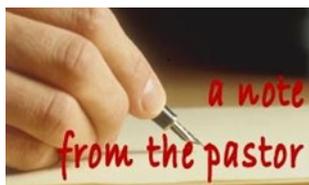


The Springs



Rev. Don Tabberer



"Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil." (Ephesians 5:15-16,

NRSV)

Wisdom, according to the dictionary, comes from having experience, knowledge, and good judgement. How we acquire these things depends on how we choose to live our lives and whose example we choose to follow. In Sarah Young's devotional *"Jesus Calling"* we hear this from Jesus: *"Your mind is somewhat like a seesaw. As your trust in me goes up, fear and worry automatically go down. Time spent with me not only increases your trust; it also helps you discern what is important and what is not."* Wisdom is about knowing the difference between what is important and what is not.

For Paul writing to the Ephesians, the wise are those who are now alive in Christ; those who have been awakened from the sleep of sin and death. We are called to be awake, alert, and participating in God's work in our world. This is a life that asks us to deal with time wisely and honestly. Paul suggests that our motivation is that the times are evil. That seems a bit simplistic to me. God has given us the world in which we live and every day is a gift from God. This can't all be evil if God is in the midst of it; there is some real good in the world as well.

However, we live in a culture that pushes us to act as though there is never enough time. We are constantly rushing, with every moment of time absorbed in our desire to be connected and productive. Still, in other ways, we try to tell ourselves that we have all the time in the world, and that mortality and its limitations will not impinge upon us. Either way is a path of foolishness.

To be the awakened and wise people of God means that we can be good and honest stewards of time, so that opportunities to do justice, and to live boldly as God's reconciled people during this time, are not missed. We are called to discern the wise ways to live in this time, capitalizing on new opportunities and having our eyes open to potential pitfalls. We are challenged to spend our time wisely doing the things we need to do, while always keeping our eyes open to see what Jesus wants us to see. We cannot let our life get in the way of seeing the lives of people living at the margin of society. We must still see injustice and look for ways to bring hope. We must still see oppression and look for ways to bring relief. We must still see hunger and look for ways to feed. We must still see the unloved and look for ways to love.

Maybe *"the days are evil"* because there are still so many people who do not embrace the commands to love God and love others. Maybe *"making the most of the time"* means spending our time seeking ways to show those folks what it looks like to love God and love others. That sounds easy enough, doesn't it? But what does it really take for us to make a difference in the life of a homeless single mother with children? How do we demonstrate the love of Jesus to people we don't know because we haven't taken the time to meet them? What does it mean to offer God's love to people who have been wounded by the church in the past and have been led to believe that they are the exception to the *"God loves everyone"* rule? Can we be as gracious as God is by accepting and welcoming others just as they are?

We find wisdom by listening more to God and less to the world. Are you listening for God's word today?

*Seeking wisdom,
Pastor Don*

JUST A REMINDER

On September 1, the interest on our mortgage for the Family Life Center property will be adjusted by the bank for the next three years.

At this time we have the opportunity to make a payment on the principle of the mortgage. By reducing the principal amount owed, we will reduce the amount of the monthly payments on the mortgage. Please prayerfully consider whether you can make a contribution to help reduce the principal amount owed on our mortgage.

Missions

In July, a group of us spent a Saturday morning re-packaging flour at Eastern Oklahoma Food Bank and this last Saturday, August 6th, 16 SSUMC members helped Restore Hope finish boxing school supplies so they could have them ready to distribute. More opportunities to help are coming up and will be announced in the newsletter. As always, I am amazed at the amount of volunteering and aid this church provides to the community, both known and unknown. They will know us for who we are by our deeds and by our words.

I have an idea for a mission for a need I was made aware of at Circle of Care/Pearl's Hope. They have a Prayer Walk path that goes through their 40 acres. It has become grown over with weeds and needs to be trimmed and cleaned up. I would like to have a Friday/Saturday mission at a time when it isn't blazing hot and football games aren't likely to interfere. I understand not everyone can come out, or spend two days working, but as always, if you are able, you are welcome. And if you are unable, your prayers are always appreciated, for those in need and for those helping. If you are interested in this mission, please email me your interest so I can work with Circle of Care/Pearl's Hope on dates and needs.

Your brother in Christ
Buster Hall

Lay Servant Training

The Council Oak District is holding Lay Servant Training Friday evening and all day Saturday, September 23rd and 24th at Sapulpa First UMC, 1401 E. Taft. The

Basic course is designed to help you become more skilled in serving God in our church and in our community. It provides opportunities to increase your knowledge of service as a Lay Servant in the areas of leading, caring, and communication. It is pre-requisite for the Advanced course.

The Advanced course is a continuation of training which allows the individual to earn a certification as a Certified Lay Servant or a Lay Speaker. The cost for either course is \$10, which includes lunch on Saturday. There is a required book for each course which must be read before the training begins and which can be ordered on-line.

If you are interested, contact Buster Hall for an application.



Hey kids-

Hi to all our Kidzone "professors"

We had a fun time Sunday in our "Power Lab" as we

heard the story of the healing of the ten lepers. Only one leper came back to thank Jesus. Jesus gives us the power to be thankful in happy and sad times. We decorated our lab coats. We are doing some experiments-be sure to come back next Sunday and check out the results.

Be sure and bring your backpacks this Sunday, August 14th. Pastor Don will have you take part in the service for the "Blessings of Backpacks" as you get ready to start the new school year.

Have a wonderful week!
Miss Debbie & Miss Marty



Sunday Lists

Sunday Volunteers—August 14

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.-Jo Fritts
Counters-Janie Moore & Kent Warkentin

Sunday Volunteers—August 21

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.-Debbie Schmidt
Counters-Diana Pond & Jack Vest

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, Jim McCormick, 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 8
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**

8/10-CIA/Pathfinders
8/17-Faith Circle
8/24-TNT
8/31-Ruth Esther Circle



Here is some of your **2016 Children's Church Schedule**

8/14-Jo Fritts
8/21-Debbie Schmidt
8/28-Amanda Honeycutt
9/4-Marty David
9/11-Katherine Reeves
9/18-Kat Katzung
9/25-Jo Fritts

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

Tuesday, August 9

5:30pm-Cub Scouts-FLC
7:00pm-Praise Team
7:00pm-AI-Anon-Upstairs

Wednesday, August 10

7:30am-Men's Breakfast-Crescent Café
6:30pm-The Awakening—Youth
7:00pm-Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, August 11

6:00pm-UMW Salad Supper-F. Hall
*7:00pm-Collins Karate-FLC

Friday, August 12

FLC in Use

Saturday, August 13

FLC—CPHS Band Booster Book Sale

Sunday, August 14

8:30am-Contemporary Worship
9:45am-Communion Service
10:00am-Sunday School
11:00am-Traditional Worship

Monday, August 15

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

Tuesday, August 16

5:30pm-Cub Scouts-FLC
7:00pm-Praise Team Rehearsal
7:00pm-AI-Anon-Upstairs

Wednesday, August 17

7:30am-Men's Breakfast-Crescent Café
6:30pm-The Awakening—Youth
7:00pm-Chancel Choir

Thursday, August 18

*7:00pm-Collins Karate-FLC

Friday, August 19

NO Activities

Saturday, August 20

No Activities

NOTE:

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



It's Weed Pullin' Time!

If you have time, the desire, and are willing, please feel free to pull the weeds out of the flower beds at the church...at your convenience!

