

# The Springs



Rev. Don Tabberer

December 3, 2014



*"His grace which was bestowed on me was not in vain."*

(1 Corinthians 15:10)

The fact that we have received God's grace in our lives should be cause for

celebration and it should be a source of joy and hope every day. Oswald Chambers writes: *"The way we continually talk about our own inability is an insult to the Creator. The deploring of our own incompetence is a slander against God for having overlooked us."*

We need to be aware that sometimes the way we think of or describe ourselves, intending to show humility, may really be an insult in God's eyes. Being "humble before God" is not the same thing as sounding humble before other people.

Think about that for a minute. We tend to be self-deprecating in front of others, down-playing the good that we do and even our good intentions. *"Oh, I wouldn't say that I am such a good person; I'm certainly no saint!"* But saying those same words before God is not so much humble as it is insulting. *"No, Lord, it is impossible for you to save and sanctify me; there are chances I have not had; so many imperfections in my brain and body; no, Lord, it just isn't possible for you to work through me."*

That may sound humble in front of a human audience, but to God it is a statement of ingratitude and distrust. We should rather be open to saying thank you to God for the ways in which God uses us and trusts us and allows us to share God's love with the world. We do not need to be "a saint" to serve God; God can and does work with us in spite of our imperfections. In fact, I believe God often uses us **because** of our imperfections to reach people who share our faults and weaknesses. Think about that for a moment. Is it possible that God is guiding you to someone right now who is like you in many ways, yet who has not yet found a relationship with Jesus? Maybe your similarities will act as a way for you to help lead that person to Christ. If you were "a saint," you might not have that same opportunity.

We are truly humble before God when we can say that we have completely abandoned ourselves to the point that all that we are and all that we have is at God's disposal. That's not bragging if it is the truth. Other people might hear that as pride, but God hears it as humble submission to God's grace and perfect will. The great thing is that it really doesn't matter what other people think anyway; it only matters what God thinks.

I believe we spend way too much time worrying about what other people think of us. We are concerned about how others view our motives; we worry too much about the way we look on the outside; we hesitate to act for fear of offending someone. The problem with that sort of thinking is that it places the opinions of others above God's opinion and that is a dangerous thing for us to do. We can never truly measure-up to the opinions of other people because people are imperfect and fickle. How we view others and how they view us is constantly changing; we cannot and should not try to live by ever-moving expectations. God sees us in a constant vision of us as God's children – imperfect, but loved; sinful, and yet redeemed. Living up to God's expectations is as simple as recognizing our true self and then letting God be in charge of every day. I know it sounds simpler than it really is, but we can do it if we understand the priorities of our relationships.

There is only one relationship that really matters and that is your personal relationship with God. If that relationship is in order, then all your other relationships will fall into place exactly as they should. Maintain your relationship with God at all costs and God will fulfill His purpose through your life. We cannot know the full extent of what God can do in and through us unless we trust God to do God's work.

*Trusting God,  
Pastor Don*

## Please Keep In Prayer

Ruth Weaver, Martha Scudder, Virginia Vice, Billie Schmidt, Destinee Tackett, Darryl Muse, Tristan Schwartz, Irene Stogsdill, Owen Johnston, SSUMC, Mrs. Frank Dudek, Paul Waldschmidt, Barnard Family, Jim McCormick, Hal Cauthron, Tate Finley, Clare Caldwell, Shawn Cole, John Johnson, Unspoken Requests

## Sunday Lists

### Sunday Volunteers—December 7

Visitors Center & Coffee-Discovery

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

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

Child. Church-11:00 a.m.-Kristen & Julia Henry

Counters-Betty or Howard Smith & Karen Wilder

### Sunday Volunteers—December 14

Visitors Center & Coffee-Discovery

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

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

Child. Church-11:00 a.m.-Debbie S. & Jan D.

Counters-Sondra Bogert & Dick Ford

## Acknowledgements

Dear Church Family,

We want to thank everyone for the prayers and concerns for Bob during his radiation treatments and healing. Prayers do work and we are so thankful for his recovery! Please keep him in your prayers for continued good health and for everyone that is going through treatments and illnesses. We love you.

Bob & Joyce McFall

We just want to say Thank You for your kindness to us old lady's. We're so glad there is people like you. Have a Happy Thanksgiving to all of you. Bless You! Pat Rance from Lucile Page

**Thank You, Church!** This year's Thanksgiving Dinner was a record-breaker. We prepared and delivered right at 1200 meals this year. It is simply not possible to say enough thanks to all the people who helped leading up to the event, during the event, and afterward. This could not happen without all you volunteers. Thank you! Dozens of people were at the Family Life Center on Thanksgiving Day to package and deliver meals to the needy in our community. There were so many who also cooked turkeys and worked tirelessly at the FLC in advance of Thursday's meal to prepare and cook food. It was, as usual, a wonderful labor of love that paid off by providing delicious meals to people who would otherwise have been left out this year. We also owe a huge debt of gratitude to the businesses, organizations, and individuals who once again stepped up with cash donations that made it possible for us to buy the food and supplies needed for all these meals. We hope to see all of you again next year.

God bless you!

The Thanksgiving Dinner Ministry Team



### Socks for Sand Springs Community Services

The Kids are collecting girls/women's and boys/men's socks for all ages for SSCS. There will be a donation box available in the Narthex for anyone who wishes to donate.



### Operation Christmas Child

As a church we collected 201 shoe boxes and as a drop off location we collected 665 boxes. Thanks to all who packed shoe boxes and helped at the drop off. We couldn't have done it without you!

### 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



## The Awakening

### Upcoming Events

December 3<sup>rd</sup>

Continue discussion  
w/Pastor Don

December 17th

Youth Christmas  
Party/Outing

### Hey Youth...I'm

#### Baaaaaack

Okay, so I really never left, but since Mark has moved on I will be taking the lead with the youth group again.

While we all would have liked to have seen Mark and Jenny stay longer, we will move on and look forward to what God brings us in the future. I will again do my best to keep everything on track and make sure that our youth ministry continues to succeed until the next youth pastor is hired.

I hope all of you had a great Thanksgiving holiday but now it's time to get back to our normal meeting schedule. Because of the great feedback in November from the youth to Pastor Don about Sunday morning worship, he needed to come back to finish up that discussion. Please be there again this Wednesday to provide your input.

Finally, plan to meet at the FLC at 5:30pm on December 17 for a fun night out. I don't have all of the details worked out yet, but I promise we will have a great time as a group. You might even get to see some faces you haven't see in a little while. I'll let you know more about this event next week.

I look forward to seeing all of you soon.

Kent



## KidZone

We hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving! Now it's not long until Christmas.

The children will be collecting children and adult sized socks for Sand Springs Community Services. There will be a donation box in the narthex.

The Children's Christmas program – *Stranger in the Manger* is December 7<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. Call time for the kids is 5:30pm. Birthday Party with Birthday Cake for Jesus to follow. Practice is 10am-12pm on Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>.

We'll see you Sunday!

**what is \$1 a day?**



Restaurant Beverages

**or \$7 towards apportionments**

A percentage of apportionment money goes to **General Administration Fund** - providing services on the national church level and paying for General Conference every four years.



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

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**  
**FLC-Family Life Center \* Unsponsored Event**

**Wednesday, December 3**

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

**Thursday, December 4**

6:30 p.m.-Faith Circle Christmas Party  
7:00 p.m.-Karate at FLC \*

**Friday, December 5**

9:00 a.m.-Goody Bags-Parlor  
5:30 p.m.-FLC in use  
7:00 p.m.-SS Christmas Parade \*

**Saturday, December 6**

10:00 a.m.-Kingdom Kids Practice  
F. Hall in use

**Sunday, December 7**

8:30 a.m.-Modern Worship; 11:00 a.m.-Classic Worship  
9:45 a.m.-Communion Service  
10:00 a.m.-Small Groups  
6:00 p.m.-Kingdom Kids Christmas Program

**Monday, December 8**

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

**Tuesday, December 9**

10:00 a.m.-Intercessory Prayer Group

5:30 p.m.-FLC yard in use\*  
6:30 p.m.-Cub Scouts-FLC  
7:00 p.m.-Praise Team  
7:00 p.m.-Al-Anon-Upstairs

**Wednesday, December 10**

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

**Thursday, December 11**

7:00 p.m.-Stewardship Meeting  
7:00 p.m.-Karate-FLC \*  
After Karate-FLC set up for SS Pay It Forward \*

**Friday, December 12**

FLC in use all day for SS Pay It Forward \*

**Saturday, December 13**

FLC in use all day for SS Pay It Forward \*  
7:00 a.m.-Helping Hands  
10:00 a.m.-Chancel Choir Practice

**Sunday, December 14**

8:30 a.m.-Modern Worship; 11:00 a.m.-Classic Worship  
9:45 a.m.-Communion Service  
10:00 a.m.-Small Groups  
10:00 a.m.-Second Sunday Missions  
6:00 p.m.-Chancel Choir Christmas Program

**Sand Springs UMC**

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**918-245-5955 Fax-918-245-2801**

**Family Life Center: 918-245-3725**

**[www.SandSpringsumc.org](http://www.SandSpringsumc.org)**