

The Springs



Rev. Don Tabberer



"So God created [humankind] in His own image; He created [them] in the image of God; He created them male and female" (Genesis 1:27).

Dear friends in Christ,
Humanity was created in the image of God and therefore every human is of infinite worth. In spite of this fact, human beings have found new and more horrible ways to

treat one another differently based on the most insignificant differences – the skin tone of one that may be different from another. That is really all we are talking about – skin tone. Since the beginning of time, human beings have existed with different shades of skin tone. These differences have never been responsible for intellectual ability, strength, or beauty. God created and all of Creation is worthy.

The term "race" as applied to people does not appear in the Bible. In fact, the word itself is of uncertain origin and does not occur in any language until about the sixteenth century. While the modern race problem has economic, political, and social implications, the difference between current practice and biblical truth shows it to be primarily a moral and spiritual problem. The Bible does not deal with the race problem as we know it in our time, but it gives some very important principles which can be applied to race relations. It seems that the founders of our nation recognized those principles:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." (The Declaration of Independence)

And yet, there are many people in our nation who continue to support discrimination when it comes to granting basic human rights to people of color, people with whom we disagree, people who come to our country seeking refuge, and people whose religion is not ours.

Black History Month reminds us that human beings of many different skin colors have made enormous contributions to the health and growth of this nation and the world. It reminds us that the image we see in our mirror every morning does not represent the entire human race. It challenges us to stop looking at the surface image of each person we meet and, instead, look at the *imago Dei* – the image of God – that resides at the core of every human being created in the image of God. It convicts us with the realization that whenever we mistreat, ignore, abuse, or discriminate against any other human being we mistreat, ignore, abuse, and discriminate against God, in whose image that person was created.

I do not pretend to be an expert on the topic of race in America, nor do I imagine that I can ever fully understand what it is like to be treated differently simply because the color of my skin is different from yours. Nonetheless, I can speak with authority on the subject of God's love for all people and God's command that we love all people as God has loved us.

Black History Month, or National African American History Month, is an annual celebration of achievements by black Americans and a time for recognizing the central role of African Americans in U.S. history. It's not a bad idea and we need to celebrate. I wonder, though, if the greater need is to change the character and culture of our people so that we begin to realize that black history is American history and world history and church history and human history.

God has created each person with a unique set of fingerprints. Likewise, we are each as unique as snowflakes. Nobody, regardless of skin tone, can be lumped into a group of people where everyone is the same... ever. We are simply too unique. God created us all in diversity; when will we accept ourselves as God made us and learn to love the rainbow that is the human race?

*Seeking God's grace,
Pastor Don*



Cathy's Notes

Our church has many wonderful musicians that give of their time and talent each week. We are blessed with singers and instrumentalists that lead us into meaningful worship. One "member" of our team that has not been doing its part lately is the pipe organ. It has been neglected over the years to the point that it cannot do its job well. Several parts have been disconnected and it desperately needs tuning and voicing. The organ was purchased in 1978 for \$31,000. It would be nearly impossible to replace it. If we are to keep the organ, its needs should be addressed.

One way to insure maintenance would be to set up an Organ Fund. This would help to have the money on hand for regular tuning and care. After the Trustees meet this month, I hope to be able to tell you how to contribute. Thank you to all who have voiced concern and support for this wonderful instrument.

Singing His Praise,
Cathy Gifford



Hey Kids!

Kids in Kidzone have made valentines for our shut ins. They were very creative and had a great time making them. As we had our lessons about Paul, we learned how he taught the early church members to share the love of Jesus with all. Making the cards was their way of showing their love for them. We will begin our Easter lessons this Sunday. On March 6th, we will be putting Easter baskets together for Sand Springs Community Services. Have a great week! See you next week.

Parents—please note—we need wrapped candy to put inside Easter eggs for Sand Springs Community Services Easter Baskets. We also need clear bags for the baskets which can be purchased at Dollar Tree, 2 for \$1. This all needs to be given to Marty or Debbie

or turned in to Tracey in the church office by Sunday, February 28th. Thanks in advance!

Marty & Debbie & the Gang



Hey Ladies!

Yay! The Yearbooks are finished. All the circle presidents have your books. If you run short, check with Tracey in the office to get your copy. Thanks to Carole and

Tracey and all others who helped put it together.

Our church hosts the Lenten Luncheon on March 1. Be thinking of your best soup recipes.

Circle Meetings in February:

Faith – Feb. 25, 7pm – Hostess/Devotion/Program– Karen Wilder Meets in the Parlor

Priscilla – Feb. 23, 7 pm- Meeting at Glenna Stockard's, hostess- Patti Pafford, Devotion /Program- Sharon Scheurmann

Ruth Esther – Feb. 25, 1:00 pm- Hostess-Barbara Fisher, Devotion- Joyce McFall, Program-Charlene Reeves. Meets in Fellowship Hall.

Where our money goes...

Some of the funds from our Prayer and Self Denial giving has gone to a group of women in Uganda. "In Kabulasoke, the women used the funds to buy seeds and agricultural tools, learn better composting techniques and grow new varieties of vegetables that offer better nutrition for their families..." (from UMW News Vol.8#4/2015)

For program ideas check the UMW Program Book and Prayer Calendar. There is one for each Circle. Also the "Response", "New World Outlook" or any of the books on the reading list. These are found in the UMW section of the Church library.

Thank you, Wava Burt for keeping the books and magazines so organized for the UMW.

ORIGINS OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The story of Black History Month begins in 1915, half a century after the Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery in the United States. That September, the Harvard-trained historian Carter G. Woodson and the prominent minister Jesse E. Moorland founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH), an organization dedicated to researching and promoting achievements by black Americans and other peoples of African descent. Known today as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), the group sponsored a national Negro History week in 1926, choosing the second week of February to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. The event inspired schools and communities nationwide to organize local celebrations, establish history clubs and host performances and lectures.

In the decades that followed, mayors of cities across the country began issuing yearly proclamations recognizing Negro History Week. By the late 1960s, thanks in part to the Civil Rights Movement and a growing awareness of black identity, Negro History Week had evolved into Black History Month on many college campuses. President Gerald R. Ford officially recognized Black History Month in 1976, calling upon the public to *"seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history."* Since then, every American president has designated February as Black History Month.



Fast-A-Meal for Restore Hope Ministries

From the earliest years of the church, faithful Christians have used the holy season of Lent (the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Good Friday) as an opportunity to examine their lives, look at the suffering and sacrifice of Christ for us, and give sacrificially in response to that amazing grace. John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, called Christians to fast, pray, and give alms as he believed the

combination of those elements is important for the growth of our faith.

For many years, Restore Hope has offered churches and followers of Christ a guide for this season of Lent. This year's guide to prayer and fasting is available on the table under the announcement screen in the Church Lobby. You may also go to Restore Hope's website to find the guide and links for giving.

www.restorehope.org

For the cost of one meal each week during Lent, we can provide food for a family whose pantry is bare, a Bible for a family without one, and needed funds to prevent homelessness.

As you participate in this Fast-a-Meal program, we pray God will deepen your faith, transform our world, and reach out to those in need. Thank you for your faithful participation and may God bless you during your spiritual journey this Lenten season.



Here are your
2016 Newsletter weeks.

Please remember-articles are due by 11 a.m. on this date. I am not able to send reminders so please, mark your calendars.

February 22	August 8
March 7	August 22
March 21	September 5
April 4	September 19
April 18	October 3
May 2	October 17
May 16	October 31
May 30	November 14
June 13	November 28
June 27	December 12
July 11	January 9, 2017
July 25	

Help Wanted

We are seeking nursery attendants to start immediately.

Please contact the Church Office.

Sun., Feb. 28th

**5:00PM
Family Life Center
101 W 38th**



Bring your favorite chili to share or just come out to eat and vote on whose chili is the best. Each year we use this event to share food and fellowship while raising funds to support the mission of the church. We invite anyone who wants to bring their best chili to share with the crowd. We also invite you to bring desserts to share. Voting for the best chili will determine who takes home this year's coveted **Golden Ladle Award**. There will be a "tip jar" available where you can drop off money to support our First Sunday Mission projects, our Fourth Monday Meal, and the Helping Hands mission. ***Mark your calendar now and don't miss it!***

**Ash Wednesday Services are Wednesday,
February 10th at 6:30 p.m.**

**Attention All Youth! Youth will meet at the
Church for Ash Wednesday Services this
week! Be sure to attend at 6:30 p.m.
February 10th.**

**Attention Chancel Choir! We will meet after
the service for Choir Practice. Invite a friend
to join the choir!**

Presidents Day

The offices will be closed next Monday, February 15th.

Pastor's Discretionary Fund

Did you know people come in the office every week in need? Sometimes several a day and quite a few a week! And not just to SSUMC. All the local churches get people in need. Everyone finds comfort in church. Did you also know that money you leave sitting on the communion rail when you pray goes to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund? Some churches have a food pantry; some clothing; some have cash and some have showers... We give gas vouchers at SSUMC. We have also given help with utilities, rent, job uniforms, food..... But we can't give any help without you. You can make a donation to the pastor's discretionary fund any time. It is above your regular giving. It is sacrificial. It is above and beyond. It is missional. It is a warm feeling!!!

Seniors In Action

We are going to have a great time Wednesday, February 17th at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall!! Soup and entertainment will be provided. Bring a side dish, a dessert, a friend-WHATEVER! Just don't miss out! Cathy Black from Greentree will come sing for us and if you don't know Cathy—you are missing out! See you there!

**50th
Wedding Anniversary
February 27th
For Bill & Mary Kay Schwartz**

***You're invited to the party!
It's from 3-5 p.m. at the
Family Life Center.***

***Call Paige Pulscher
with any questions:
918-269-7317***



Sunday Lists

Sunday Volunteers—February 14

Visitors Center & Coffee-Harmony
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-Sheree Buttler & Jami Warkentin

Sunday Volunteers—February 21

Visitors Center & Coffee-Harmony
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-Janice Moore & Kent Warkentin

Please Keep In Prayer



Don Baldrige, Bob & Cathy Hula, BW Proft, Clare Caldwell, Darryl Muse, Jack & Jewell Brown, Martha Scudder, Owen Johnston, Ruth Weaver, Tristan Schwartz, Delbert Sloan, Leonard Whisenhunt, Darin Grayson, Chris Bordelon, Mark, Jim McCormick, Aaron (Dustin Dinsmore's friend), Pauline Hanigar, Morene Baker, Barbara McClintock, Glenda Paul-Reyna, Crickett Lashly, Alysha Hancock, SSUMC & Unspoken Requests

Acknowledgements

Thank you...

... Thank you for your prayers and cards. God bless you all.

Pauline Hanigar

8:30 a.m. Worship Song

Shout to the North
Lay Me Down
Always
Sometimes By Step
Came To My Rescue
We Fall Down



12:00 p.m.

Mark Your Calendars and Join Us

2/16-Dillon Chapel at Woodland Memorial Park
12th & Cleveland

2/23-St. Andrew Lutheran Church
3201 S. 113th W. Ave.

3/1-Sand Springs United Methodist Church
4th & Main

3/8-First Presbyterian Church
222 N. Adams Road

3/15-St. Patrick's Catholic Church
204 E. 4th

3/22-St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
601 Lake Drive

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR SAND SPRINGS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

February 10-Ash Wednesday

7:30 a.m.-Men's Breakfast-Crescent Café
6:30 p.m.-Ash Wednesday Service-Sanctuary
Following service-Chancel Choir

February 11

11:30 a.m.-Ministerial Alliance-F. Hall
*7:00 p.m.-Karate-FLC

February 12

3:00 p.m.-FLC in use

February 13

TBA-F. Hall in use

February 14-Happy Valentine's Day!

8:30 a.m.-Contemporary Worship
9:45 a.m.-Communion Service
10:00 a.m.-Sunday School
11:00 a.m.-Traditional Worship
1:30 p.m.-Boy Scout Leadership Training-FLC

February 15-Happy Presidents Day!

Offices Closed

7:00 p.m.-Boy Scouts

February 16

12:00 p.m.-Lenten Devotion-Dillon Chapel
5:30 p.m.-Cub Scouts-FLC
7:00 p.m.-Praise Team
7:00 p.m.-Al-Anon-Upstairs

February 17

7:30 a.m.-Men's Breakfast-Crescent Café
11:30 a.m.-SIA Luncheon-F. Hall
6:30 p.m.-Youth-FLC
7:00 p.m.-Chancel Choir

February 18

*7:00 p.m.-Karate-FLC

February 19

No Activities

February 20

No Activities

February 21

8:30 a.m.-Contemporary Worship
9:45 a.m.-Communion Service
10:00 a.m.-Sunday School
11:00 a.m.-Traditional Worship
1:30 p.m.-Finance Meeting-Parlor
2:30 p.m.-Church Council
4:00 p.m.-SPRC

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