

February 11, 2015

The Springs

Rev. Don Tabberer

SAND SPRINGS
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH



"At once the Spirit forced Jesus out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among the wild animals, and the angels took care of him." (Mark 1:12-13, CEB)

Wednesday, February 18th is Ash Wednesday, marking the beginning of the Season of Lent, a 40-day period which is an allusion to the separation of Jesus in the desert to fast and pray. While not specifically instituted in the Bible text, the 40-day period of repentance is also analogous to the 40 days during which Moses repented and fasted in response to the making of the Golden calf. (Jews today follow a 40-day period of repenting in preparation for and during the High Holy Days from Rosh Chodesh Elul to Yom Kippur.) The forty days of Lent are counted as the weekdays, excluding Sundays, between Ash Wednesday and Easter. This observance has been part of church tradition since the Fourth Century A.D.

I bring all this history up to say that, aside from the tradition and the ritual, Lent has an important role to play in our lives as Christian believers. Just as we spend time during Advent preparing ourselves to receive the newborn Christ, we must spend time preparing ourselves to understand the magnitude of Jesus' sacrifice – his passion and death; and the full importance of his resurrection. These are not simple concepts for us to comprehend and we need time to pray and listen for God's voice. Church tradition calls for us to spend time seriously considering the state of our own lives; to examine our own sinfulness and to repent. It is a time to ask forgiveness and to listen for God leading us away from the things that tempt us to sin. It is a time for us to re-examine our Christian life and seek to strengthen our relationship with God in Jesus Christ. Lent is actually not much different from the life God calls us to each day; it is simply a time when we should concentrate on becoming who God wants us to become and striving to implement what we discover during Lent each day after Easter Sunday.

The four weeks prior to Lent this year we have spent talking about how prayer makes a real difference in our lives. This has been an intentional effort to guide us toward a more powerful prayer life so that we are better prepared for the Season of Lent. During Lent we will have the **"Praying Backwards"** series to give you a chance to study practical ways to offer prayer to God. We will also have a contemplative **Prayer Walk**

available every day in **Fellowship Hall**. This guided walk offers stations where you may spend time with God in prayer and further develop that peace we cannot explain that I talked about this past Sunday morning. Our children and youth have been busy making **prayer beads** for each person attending worship on Sunday, February 22nd, the first Sunday in Lent. This is another method of helping us to focus on prayer and avoid distractions when we are in conversation with God. There will also be several opportunities to gather with fellow believers from across Sand Springs as we once again celebrate **"Tuesdays in Lent"** with our sisters and brothers in Christ. (There is more information about this event in this newsletter.)

There are many other ways that Christians have traditionally marked the Season of Lent. Prayer is certainly of vital importance, but **fasting** is also a widely observed practice. Depriving ourselves of things that we desire as we seek to know God better reminds us of the sacrifice of Jesus. It also demonstrates for us the relative importance of material comforts in our lives and helps us to better appreciate the things that God wants us to count as important. If fasting is not possible for you, then consider **taking** something up rather than **giving** something up. Take up a new habit of giving, or a new prayer discipline, or a new Scripture reading schedule. Begin something new this Lent that will help you grow spiritually. Remember that this is a season of preparation; we are preparing ourselves to know God completely through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

I hope you will plan to join us for **Ash Wednesday worship at 6:30 p.m. on February 18th**. Together we will begin the season by reminding ourselves of our own mortality and the eternal immortality promised to us by God. This will be the start of a season where we will walk together along the road the Jesus leads us. We will encounter **"The Rebel Jesus"** as we explore the **"Renegade Gospel"** each Sunday during Lent. Then, as we approach Easter Sunday, we will celebrate our annual **Maundy Thursday** supper, **Good Friday** worship and the glory of **Resurrection Sunday**, beginning with Sunrise Service on April 5th.

"Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy hill. Let all who live in the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming. It is close at hand." (Joel 2:1)

Praying for all of us,
Pastor Don



**SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 28
5:30 p.m.
FAMILY LIFE
CENTER**

Please join us for an evening of fellow-

ship & delicious food!

Watch for sign up sheets in the narthex the next two Sunday's. You can sign up to bring chili and/or desserts as well as set up and clean up help.

All donations will be used to purchase supplies for our Restore Hope Missions Projects.



Praying at Noon for Daily Bread

Noontime doesn't need to mean only taking time for a quick sandwich. You are invited to participate in a daily prayer initiative. Originally founded as "Pray

Down at Noon" by a Houston, Texas pastor, this initiative is spreading throughout the country as a way to remind all of us of the need to pray regularly. The idea is to set the alarm on your cellphonue to go off at 12:00 Noon each day as a reminder to pray The Lord's Prayer. Imagine the sound of all those alarms going off at the same time every day and the thrill of knowing that people all over our community are praying at the same time.

Christians have prayed this simple, yet profound prayer for centuries. This powerful initiative can be a point of unity for all of us across denominations to bridge the divides of doctrine and polity that seem so evident in Christ's Body. As this initiative spreads, more and more people of every denomination are participating and creating an enormous chain of prayers that begins at noon each day, regardless of time zone. There is a Facebook page to help promote this idea globally: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Lords-Prayer-at-Noon/962036040489931>

We are asking you to begin this initiative on **Sunday, January 25, 2015**, as part of our worship series on prayer. We are also inviting all other Sand Springs churches to participate. Once this habit is formed, it is an easy practice to maintain for a lifetime.

Someone's Praying, Lord...

Beginning February 22, we are offering a six-week Bible Study using the book, "Praying Backwards" (Transform your Prayer Life by beginning in Jesus' Name) by Bryan Chapell. It will be on Sunday evenings at 5:00, in the Church Parlor. It's a wonderful Bible Study that has been done two different times in the past, and it has been requested that we offer it again. If you are interested in participating, please sign up right away so books can be ordered. We want to have the books in your hands in time for you to read the Intro and the 1st Chapter before our first class. You may sign up on the church's website, or call the church office for assistance. You may also call me at 918-245-9248 for additional information, or to let me know you are interested.

Note: If you have participated in the study and still have your book, Praying Backwards, you might want to consider sharing it with someone for this study. Or, if you want to take a refresher course, we would love to have you! Just call and let me know.

Virginia

**PRAYING BACKWARDS
Transform Your Prayer Life
by Beginning in Jesus' Name
February 22 - March 29 - 5:00 p.m.
Childcare available upon request
Sign Up Right Away!
(Led by Virginia Baldrige)**

Attention: Small Group Leaders



We have multiple copies of past Lenten Study Books. Check them out and save money. Find them on the top shelf in the corner of the library. If you need help, see Jody Seaman.



Kidzone

We certainly hope everyone got to enjoy the weather over the weekend. Those warm days are such a treat during the winter. The children worked on 16 valentine boxes for residents at Green Tree. The boxes will be delivered by our youth when they volunteer at Green Tree on Wednesday. The children continue their work on their Jesus scrapbooks. They will be anxious to show them to their family and friends. Have a great week! See you Sunday!

The Awakening

Upcoming Events

February 11 – Youth at Green Tree (meet at FLC @5:30pm)

February 18 – Ash Wednesday Service – 6:00 pm (NO YOUTH @ FLC)

If you haven't heard, thanks to everyone's support of our youth we raised almost \$750 on the Super Sub Sunday fundraiser. That is a great start raising money towards the youth mission trip to St. Paul, MN. Thanks again for helping us out and I hope you enjoyed your lunch! Speaking of the mission trip, we have 8 youth and 3 adults registered to go to St. Paul from June 21-26. Please continue to pray for this trip and support us during future fundraisers.

We are making our return to Green Tree this week so I hope we have as many youth show up as possible. The Children's Ministry team had the kids make Valentine's themed boxes for the residents that we will be delivering, so thanks to them for helping out. After we are done at Green Tree we will also revive the tradition of eating at ChinaOK for dinner.

We are starting a new series on Sunday mornings called "Can I Ask That?" that should provide some very thought provoking discussions for our youth (and probably a lot of questions I may not be able to answer!!). The goal is to allow them to openly discuss tough questions about God, the Bible, and Christianity, and provide an avenue for their conversations to help develop their own faith convictions. Please pray for this study (and for me as the leader of it) as we work our way through some pretty difficult questions that aren't often addressed at church. Thanks again for your support,
Kent

Please Keep In Prayer

Ruth Weaver, Martha Scudder, Billie Schmidt, Destinee Tackett, Darryl Muse, Tristan Schwartz, Irene Stogsdill, Owen Johnston, Clare Caldwell, Maureen Gibson, Karen Wilder, Paul Waldschmidt, Sylvia Johnson, SSUMC

Sunday Lists

Sunday Volunteers—February 15

Visitors Center & Coffee-Harmony

Head Usher-11:00 a.m.-Eddy D. & Amanda H.

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

Child. Church-11:00 a.m.-Jami & Debbie Schmidt

Counters-Betty or Howard Smith & Karen Wilder

Youth Dinner February 11-Harmony

Sunday Volunteers—February 22

Visitors Center & Coffee-Harmony

Head Usher-11:00 a.m.-Eddy D. & Amanda H.

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

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

Counters-Sondra Bogert & Dick Ford

Youth Dinner February 18-CIA/Pathfinders



UMW Membership Brunch

Saturday, March 7th

9:30 a.m.

Fellowship Hall

All ladies are invited to
attend the UMW

Membership Brunch.

If you are a member of a circle group, please
bring a breakfast item to share.

Valerie Thomas from Sand Springs

Community Services will be our
guest speaker.

NEW DISTRICT NAME CHOSEN

Welcome to the **Council Oak District** of the Oklahoma Conference of the United Methodist Church. The District Transition Team for the extended Tulsa metropolitan area has chosen **Council Oak** as the name for the new District that will come into being on **June 1, 2015**.

It was no easy task to select a name and several names were proposed. Slowly, "Council Oak" rose to the top. The name "Council Oak" comes from the story of the settlement of the Creek Indians in the Tulsa area. I thought it respectful if we would first ask how the Native American community felt about us using that name. I contacted David Wilson and Margaret Johnson of the OIMC. They were both honored and excited about the name but felt that since they were neither one Creek, they should check with persons on the Creek Council. Chuck Horton, pastor at Owasso and a member of our Transition Team, also had a relative who works for the Creek Council and checked with them. David Wilson eventually talked with Chief Tiger who felt very positive about the idea.

As United Methodists we are in a Quadrennium of Repentance in hopes of bringing healing and reconciliation with indigenous people. In conversation with Bishop Hayes, it was our hope that taking this name for our District would be a step in the direction of that healing and reconciliation. It will give us the opportunity to know and tell this story so important to our part of the state.

Rev. Dan Peil.

Future Council Oak Superintendent

The Council Oak

In 1836 the Lochapoka Creek Indians settled in this area following their involuntary migration from Alabama. Tulsa comes from the Creek word *tallasi* meaning old town. They brought with them over the trail, ashes and embers from their last fires in Alabama using embers to build a fire each night. They marked their arrival with a solemn ceremony on a hill overlooking the River near what is now downtown Tulsa. From this site, they could see the plains around them. They gathered beneath a large oak tree and deposited the ashes they had carried with them. The Council fire was burning from the flames of their homeland. It was the beginning of a new life in a new land. For many years, they gathered in this spot for ceremonies, feasts, and games. Today this site is marked with a flame sculpture and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

This name combines the historical tradition of the area with the geography. It is also a reminder that we are a people who function in councils and confer-

ences. We are also a people on a journey carrying with us the fire of the Holy Spirit.

Rise up, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I will give it to you. So Abram moved his tent and came and settled by the oaks of Mamre... and there he built an altar to the Lord. (Genesis 13:17-18)

The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. (Genesis 18:1)

*The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called **oaks of righteousness**, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. (Isaiah 61:1-3)*



United Methodist Women Circle Meetings for February

Faith: February 26th at 7:00 p.m. in the Parlor
Program: Maureen Gibson

Priscilla: February 24th at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Paige Pulscher-3203 S. Linwood Dr. For more information check out their Facebook page.
Program: Kay Woodward

Ruth Esther: February 26th at 1:00 p.m.
in the F. Hall.
Program: Louise Read

See the article for UMC Membership Brunch and please circle members, don't forget to bring a breakfast item. If you are not a member of a SSUMC United Methodist Women group, please consider choosing a circle group and attending their meetings. Fellowship, prayer, mission education and delightful desserts are just the beginning!

Community Dinner



Beginning **Monday, February 23 at 5:30pm**, our church will host a monthly **"Bean Dinner"** for the Sand Springs Community. Patterned after a monthly program offered at

Lake United Methodist Church, this dinner is an opportunity for us to reach out to our neighbors and offer them a good meal and great fellowship. Anyone is welcome to join us for supper and nobody will be turned away. We are suggesting a donation of \$1.00 per person for the dinner, but anyone is welcome whether or not they can afford to contribute. The idea is to help our neighbors get a good meal and introduce them to our community of Christian fellowship.

This event will take place on the **4th Monday of every month at 5:30 p.m.** in our **Fellowship Hall** downstairs. We will be inviting our neighbors through signage and word-of-mouth, as well as through Sand Springs Community Services and the Sand Springs Senior Citizen Center. Our prayerful hope is that you, the members of our church, will also plan to join us for supper and that you will spend time meeting and getting to know our guests. This is not just another opportunity for us to have fellowship with one another; this is an intentional effort to meet new people who live in our community.

We are asking that, in addition to your presence at the meal, you provide corn bread and desserts each month. You may bring these to church on the 4th Sunday morning, or bring them with you when you come to the dinner each month. We also need empty butter/whipped cream tubs to send leftovers home. You may also want to bring a pot of soup or stew – the beans are covered.

Special thanks to the **Noah Sunday school Class** for spear-heading this important mission project for our church. They are taking the lead for the February meal as we learn what works best and as we get the "bugs" figured out. But this is an all-church event and we will need everyone's help to keep it going into the future. **The important thing is that this is a chance for us to be the church by showing God's love. Please help us make this a huge success!**

Remember your church through a charitable gift annuity

Katherine's church is a very important part of her life. Her parents were members of the church. She was baptized in the church. She grew up in the church. She was married in the church. Her children were baptized in the church. Her daughter was married in the church. Her grandchildren were baptized in the church. Recently, she saw the Oklahoma United Methodist Foundation's theme for 2015 – **Remember Your Church When Planning Your Estate**. Katherine knew that she wanted to leave a legacy gift to her church. She decided to explore the various options available.

One option is a charitable gift annuity. The donor makes a gift and receives fixed payments for one or two lives. The payments are based on the age(s) of the person(s) receiving the annuity. **See charitable gift annuity rates, below.** There are also very attractive tax benefits. Katherine has been exploring ways to increase her income. She has several large certificates of deposits that are yielding less than 1%. Katherine is 87 years old and, based on her age, her annuity rate would be 8.20%. Since a charitable gift annuity is a combination of a gift to charity and an annuity, Katherine's church will benefit from the charitable gift portion upon her death. Katherine is very pleased with the fixed payments, tax benefits, and the satisfaction of **remembering her church through a charitable gift annuity**. *If you would like more information about charitable gift annuities and a personalized illustration of the benefits, please contact David Battles, CPA, at 800-259-6863 or dbattles@okumf.org.*

Charitable Gift Annuity Rates:

SINGLE LIFE	TWO LIVES
AGE RATE	AGE RATE
70 - 5.1%	70 - 4.6%
75 - 5.8%	75 - 5.0%
80 - 6.8%	80 - 5.7%
85 - 7.8%	85 - 6.7%
90 - 9.0%	90 - 8.2%
95 - 9.0%	95 - 8.8%

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
FLC-Family Life Center * Unsponsored Event

Wednesday, February 11

7:30 a.m.-Men's Breakfast—Crescent Café
5:30 p.m.-The Awakening Youth to Greentree-FLC
6:00 p.m.-Chancel Ringers
7:00 p.m.-Chancel Choir

Thursday, February 12

7:00-Stewardship Meeting
7:00 p.m.-Karate at FLC *

Friday, February 13

5:00 p.m.-FLC in use*

Saturday, February 14

7:00 a.m.-Helping Hands-F. Hall
4:00 p.m.-F. Hall in use

Sunday, February 15

8:30 a.m.-Modern Worship; 11:00 a.m.-Classic Worship
9:45 a.m.-Communion Service
10:00 a.m.-Small Groups
1:30 p.m.-Finance Meeting
2:30 p.m.-Church Council
4:00 p.m.-Stewardship Meeting-Prayer Walk set up

Monday, February 16

Offices Closed
No Activities

Tuesday, February 17

10:00 a.m.-Intercessory Prayer Group
1:00 p.m.-Staff Meeting
5:30 p.m.-Cub Scouts-FLC
7:00 p.m.-Praise Team
7:00 p.m.-Al-Anon-Upstairs

Wednesday, February 18

7:30 a.m.-Men's Breakfast-Crescent Café
6:30 p.m.-Ash Wednesday
6:00 p.m.-NO Chancel Ringers
6:30 p.m.-NO youth @ FLC-Please attend Ash Wed. Service
Following service-Chancel Choir

Thursday, February 19

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

Friday, February 20

5:30 p.m.-FLC in use by Lake Country School*

Saturday, February 21

No activities

Sunday, February 22

8:30 a.m.-Modern Worship; 11:00 a.m.-Classic Worship
9:45 a.m.-Communion Service
10:00 a.m.-Small Groups
5:00 p.m.-Praying Backwards-Parlor

Next Newsletter: February 23

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Family Life Center: 918-245-3725
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Lenten Lunch Series

Once again this year churches in Sand Springs will host ***"Tuesdays in Lent,"*** a series of worship celebrations and lunches for the whole community. We will gather at various churches on Tuesdays during Lent at 12:00 NOON for a brief worship celebration and then we will gather for a lunch, hosted by the church. The idea is to have you back to work on time after lunch. Please plan to join us during Lent as we celebrate and break bread with our friends across Sand Springs.

2015 Lent Lunch Schedule

February 24	First Presbyterian Church
March 3	St. Patrick's Catholic Church
March 10	St. Andrew's Lutheran Church
March 17	Sand Springs United Methodist Church
March 24	OPEN
March 31	St. Matthew's Episcopal Church