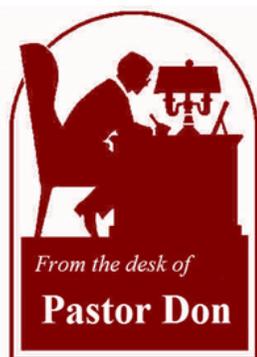


The Springs



Rev. Don Tabberer



“...the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.” (Genesis 2:7, NIV)

This Lenten Season we are on a journey together, a journey of stones. We are talking about a variety of issues that

affect our walk with Jesus. Lent is a time for self-reflection, prayer, and reconciliation. It is a chance for each one of us to honestly evaluate the life we are living and how close it matches with the will of God.

The passage from Genesis 2 brings us back to the Ash Wednesday liturgy and the beginning of our Lenten journey. On that day we reflected on the words of the prophets and we were reminded of our beginning as dust to which we will all return one day.

In a way it makes life sound a little messy, doesn't it? Born from the dirt, human life starts out messy and stays that way throughout our life here. What God gives us is an enormous opportunity to choose how we manage the “mess”. We are given tools and guidance to help us. We need to do our best to learn how to use the tools we've been given and we need to try to follow the directions laid out for us.

First of all, many of us have a problem with reading and following instructions. We prefer to figure things out for ourselves and not worry about leftover hardware when the job is done. Secondly, we don't always use the tools the way they are intended. If you grasp a hammer high up near the head, it will take a very long time to get the nail all the way into the board and your arm will be very tired.

When you grasp the hammer by the handle, as intended, you allow the tool to do its work and setting the nail becomes much easier.

God gives us this life to live, but most of the living is truly up to us. I offer the following story as an example of how this works. **Enjoy the coffee.**

A group of alumni, highly established in their careers, got together to visit their old university professor. Conversation soon turned into complaints about stress in work and life. Offering his guests coffee, the professor went to the kitchen and returned with a large pot of coffee and an assortment of cups - porcelain, plastic, glass, crystal, some plain looking, some expensive, some exquisite - telling them to help themselves to the coffee. When all the students had a cup of coffee in hand, the professor said: "If you noticed, all the nice looking expensive cups were taken up, leaving behind the plain and cheap ones. While it is but normal for you to want only the best for yourselves, that is the source of your problems and stress. Be assured that the cup itself adds no quality to the coffee in most cases, just more expensive and in some cases even hides what we drink. What all of you really wanted was coffee, not the cup, but you consciously went for the best cups, and then began eyeing each other's cups.

Now consider this: Life is the coffee, and the jobs, money and position in society are the cups. They are just tools to hold and contain life, and the type of cup we have does not define, nor change the quality of life we live. Sometimes, by concentrating only on the cup, we fail to enjoy the coffee God has provided us."

God brews the coffee, not the cups...**enjoy your coffee.**

Sipping a cup of java,
Pastor Don



UMW News

The Circles meet this week. Tuesday, Priscilla Circle meets at Glenna Stockard's at 7:00 pm.

Thursday, Ruth Esther Circle meets in the Fel-

lowship Hall at 1:00 pm.

Faith Circle meets in the Parlor at 7:00 pm.

Be sure to discuss the Lenten Luncheon, the UMW Meeting on the 5th, and the changes in Herbal Affair regulations.

The UMW has been asked to coordinate the Lenten Luncheon on March 1. Please sign up in the Narthex if you can bring a soup/chili or dessert. Call Judy Bullard – 693-1279 if you can help with set up, serving or clean-up. We need helpers between 11:00 and 1:30. We will break at noon to hear the Lenten Devotion.

Also be sure to mark your calendars for the Ladies' Gathering Brunch on Saturday, March 5th at 9:30 am in Fellowship Hall. All women of all ages are invited to hear this interesting speaker, Deaconess Shelly Owen. Come and learn about the special work of deaconess' in our church and more about UMW.



Missions for March

The Exodus House apartment which SSUMC sponsors graduated its resident, Windi Dutton, this past month. For successfully completing the program, Windi was allowed to keep the apartment furniture and home furnishings. As a result, we need to clean, make minor repairs and refurnish the apartment. I'm asking for help on **Saturday March 5th**, to clean, do minor repairs, and setup the furniture within the apartment. Exodus House is located at 2624 E. Newton.

We also need help **Saturday March 19th** to make the church grounds ready for the start of Passion Week on Sunday March 20th.

4th Monday Community Meal is **March 28th**. In January we had over 60 people at the meal. In the past, people came to eat and then left. At this meal, I was pleased to see people staying and talking with one another.

On March 13th, I am meeting with other mission team leaders from our district missional connection churches to discuss how we can best work as an organized community of believers to do church in our community. By saying "do church", I mean the church that Jesus asked of us, to love God and love others. We show our love not by words, but by deeds, by helping where we can, however we can. *"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."* – Paul's letter to the Galatians 6:9

Your brother in Christ
Buster Hall

Encounter Sunday School Class (5th & 6th Grades)

"The Encounter" 5th & 6th grade Sunday School Class invites everyone to come to our "Prayer Wall" and leave your prayers there. Please join us whenever you can and talk to God—ANYTIME!

Thanks—The Encounter Class
& Susie Honeycutt



**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*

Youth Camp Scholarships

Each year we do our best to make sure that every student has the opportunity to attend a mission trip and a summer camp. To make this happen requires volunteer leaders who are willing to give up their vacation time to lead these trips and it requires a lot of planning. Tristan and his team of dedicated volunteers do a great job of planning fun activities to raise money to help pay for these important trips. Super Bowl Subs and The Pie Auction are just two examples. Our Youth Group has grown to include approximately 15 students who meet on Wednesday evenings at the FLC. Some of these students come from families who cannot afford to send their student to camp or on a mission trip. We all know the value of these trips to the faith life of a teenager and we want to do all we can to be sure nobody is left out because of an inability to pay. So I am coming to you today to invite you to make an extra-mile donation to our Youth Scholarship Funds. ***You can do this by going to our website and clicking on "e-giving". From here you will gain access to a secure online form where you may designate a gift to the Youth Mission Fund or the Youth Camp Fund.*** You can even make your gift specific to a particular student's scholarship account, if you wish. You may also designate your gift by writing a note on the memo line of your check or by placing your gift in a separate envelope and writing your intention on the envelope. However you want to give to help this wonderful effort, we will help you get it done.

I want to thank you in advance for anything you can do to help us in this effort. I also want to thank you for all that you do to support the mission and ministry of our church. Everyone has something to offer and your financial gifts are one aspect of sharing your spiritual gifts with the church.

Thank you and God bless you!
Pastor Don



Kidzone started our Easter lessons on Sunday. We painted wooden chests in which we will put the different symbols of Easter each week. We will do Easter baskets for Sand Springs Community Services on Sunday, March 6th during Kidzone. The kids will be singing this Sunday February 28th in first service, "I Am a Child of God". Have a great week- see you on Sunday.



We Need CANDY!!

The Kidzone will be putting together a whole bunch of Easter Baskets for Sand Springs Community Services.

They need lots of **WRAPPED CANDY**. They also need **BASKET BAGS**—available at Dollar Tree—2 for \$1.

Please bring it to

the church on or before Sunday, February 28th. There is a box by the offices to collect candy (and bags).



Is it Still February???!!!

"In **every thing give thanks**: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." King James Version

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Garrison Keillor on Methodists

American author, humorist, and host of "A Prairie Home Companion", Garrison Keillor offers his insights and opinions on a wide variety of subjects. Here we find his analysis of Methodists and I think it is worth passing along so all of us can smile at ourselves.

We make fun of Methodists for their blandness, their excessive calm, their fear of giving offense, their lack of speed, and also for their secret fondness for macaroni and cheese. But nobody sings like them. If you were to ask an audience in New York City, a relatively Methodist-less place, to sing along on the chorus of *Michael Row the Boat Ashore*, they will look daggers at you as if you had asked them to strip to their underwear. But if you do this among Methodists, they'd smile and row that boat ashore and up on the beach! And down the road! Many Methodists are bred from childhood to sing in four-part harmony, a talent that comes from sitting on the lap of someone singing alto or tenor or bass and hearing the harmonic intervals by putting your little head against that person's rib cage. It's natural for Methodists to sing in harmony. We are too modest to be soloists, too worldly to sing in unison. When you're singing in the key of C and you slide into the A7th and D7th chords, all two hundred of you, it's an emotionally fulfilling moment. By our joining in harmony, we somehow promise that we will not forsake each other.

I do believe this: People, these Methodists, who love to sing in four-part harmony are the sort of people you can call up when you're in deep distress, because:

- If you're dying, they will comfort you.
- If you are lonely, they'll talk to you.
- And if you are hungry, they'll give you tuna salad.

Methodists believe in prayer, but would practically die if asked to pray out loud.

Methodists like to sing, except when confronted with a new hymn or a hymn with more than four stanzas.

Methodists believe their pastors will visit them in the hospital, even if they don't notify them

that they are there.

Methodists usually follow the official liturgy and will feel it is their way of suffering for their sins.

Methodists believe in miracles and even expect miracles, especially during their stewardship visitation programs or when passing the plate.

Methodists think that the Bible forbids them from crossing the aisle while passing the peace.

Methodists drink coffee as if it were the Third Sacrament.

Methodists feel guilty for not staying to clean up after their own wedding reception in the Fellowship Hall.

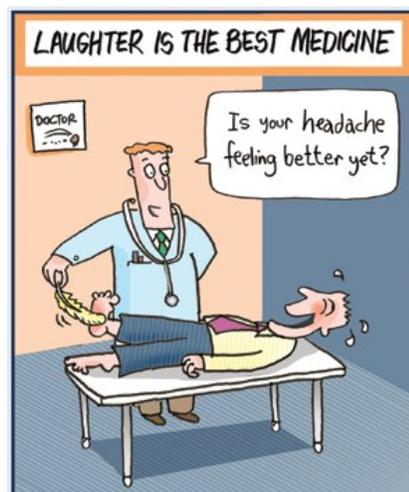
Methodists are willing to pay up to one dollar for a meal at the church.

Methodists still serve Jell-O in the proper liturgical color of the season and think that peas in a tuna casserole add too much color.

Methodists believe that it is OK to poke fun at themselves and never take themselves too seriously.

And finally, you know you are a Methodist when:

- It's 100 degrees, with 90% humidity, and you still have coffee after the service.
- You hear something funny during the sermon and smile as loudly as you can.
- Donuts are a line item in the church budget, just like coffee.
- When you watch a Star Wars movie and they say, "May the Force be with you," and you respond, "and also with you."
- And lastly, it takes ten minutes to say good-bye!



Sunday Lists

Sunday Volunteers—February 28

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.-Amanda Honeycutt
 Counters-Diana Pond & Jack Vest

Sunday Volunteers—March 6

Visitors Center & Coffee-Discovery
 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.-Marty David
 Counters-Betty or Howard Smith & Karen Wilder

8:30 a.m. Worship Songs

Not To Us
The River
Lay Me Down
Cornerstone
Came To My Rescue
Kingdom Kids: "I Am a Child of God"



12:00 p.m.

Mark Your Calendars and Join Us

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

Please Keep In Prayer



*Martha Scudder, Don Baldrige,
 Bob & Cathy Hula, BW Proft, Clare
 Caldwell, Darryl Muse, Jack &
 Jewell Brown, Owen Johnston,
 Ruth Weaver, Tristan Schwartz,
 Delbert Sloan, Leonard Whisen-
 hunt, Darin Grayson, Chris Bor-
 delon, Mark, Jim McCormick, Aa-
 ron (Dustin Dinsmore's friend),*

*Pauline Hanigar, Morene Baker, Barbara
 McClintock, SSUMC & Unspoken Requests*



Here are your June 13
2016 Newsletter June 27
weeks. Please July 11
remember-articles are July 25
due by 11 a.m. on this August 8
date. Please, mark August 22
your calendars. September 5
 September 19
 March 7 October 3
 March 21 October 17
 April 4 October 31
 April 18 November 14
 May 2 November 28
 May 16 December 12
 May 30 January 9, 2017



Here is some of your 2016 Youth Dinner Schedule

2/24-SIA
 3/2-Priscilla Circle
 3/9-Discovery/Crossroads
 3/16-No Youth
 3/23-Noah/Searchers
 3/30-Harmony

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR SAND SPRINGS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Tuesday, February 23

12:00pm-Lenten Devotion
St. Andrew Lutheran
5:30pm-Cub Scouts-FLC
7:00pm-Priscilla Circle
Home of Glenna
7:00pm-Praise Team Practice
7:00pm-Al-Anon-Upstairs

Wednesday, February 24

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

Thursday, February 25

1:00pm-Ruth Esther Circle-F. Hall
7:00pm-Faith Circle-Parlor
*7:00pm-Collins Karate-FLC

Friday, February 26

*Lake Country Schools in FLC

Saturday, February 27

*3:00pm-Bill & Mary Kay Schwartz 50th Anniversary!!-FLC

Sunday, February 28

8:30am-Contemporary Worship
9:45am-Communion Service
10:00am-Sunday School
11:00am-Traditional Worship
12:00pm-Prasie Team Lunch/Rehearsal
5:00pm-Chili Supper

Monday, February 29

7:00pm-Boy Scouts-Family Life Center

Tuesday, March 1

12:00pm-Lenten Devotion
Sand Springs UMC
5:30pm-Cub Scouts-FLC
7:00pm-Praise Team Rehearsal
7:00pm-Al-Anon-Upstairs

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

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!*