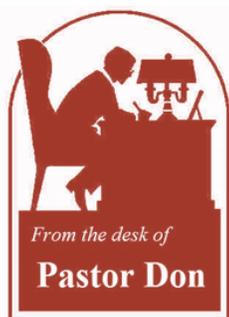


The Springs



Rev. Don Tabberer



"My eager desire and hope being that I may never feel ashamed, but that now as ever I may do honor to Christ in my own person by fearless courage." (Philippians 1:20)

Dear friends in Christ,
Years ago a dear friend gave me a copy of Oswald Chambers' *"My Utmost for His Highest"*. That copy has since been worn out with

tattered pages and coffee stains; I have moved on to a new copy of the book. This daily devotional has been around longer than I have been alive; it is one of the most used devotional books in the country. I return to it often seeking a new insight into God's Word or a new perspective on my calling or a fresh way to present a message to the church. Here at the beginning of 2016, I once again look to this well-worn tome for something "profound" to say in this first newsletter of the year. Alas, profundity abounds in the simple.

In his devotional offering for the first day of the year, Chambers reminds us that Jesus simply asks us to yield to him. What that really means is an *"absolute and irrevocable surrender"* of our will in favor of God's will in our lives. It seems so simple, yet, it remains elusive to us because surrendering our will goes against our selfish nature.

I recognize this dilemma in my own life and confess that I need to do much better this year. That may sound like a *"New Year's Resolution"* and you know that I think those are a waste of time. We seldom make any progress in fulfilling our annual resolutions to improve and then we try to feel bad for our failure. Setting reasonable, achievable goals for ourselves is probably a really good idea. I think "goals" are different from "resolutions" because they sound less vague and more measurable. The traditions of "resolutions" seem to get in our way because we assume they are doomed to failure based on years of past experience trying to lose weight or give up chocolate. *New Year's Resolutions*, much like U.N. resolutions, just don't seem to work.

You see what I did there? I managed to veer off the subject and avoid talking about how we should give-in to God's will for our lives. We do that pretty easily, don't we? We get distracted. We rationalize our behavior. Chambers says that, *"we tell God he does not know what our obedience will mean."* Really? We are debating with God that there might be something in our life that he does not know about nor understand. How does that work, exactly?

Sometimes I think we come to believe that following God's will means that we will stop having any fun; maybe we think our lives will change so drastically that we won't be able to recognize ourselves. That is partly true – but, it's a **good thing!** When we surrender our will into God's will we become the people God always intended for us to be. We will be less stressed and more able to enjoy the life God offers. Other people will notice the changes in us and want to spend more time with us. We will begin doing more of the things that God calls us to and we'll be too busy to notice the things missing from our lives that separated us from God in the first place.

If we are honest with ourselves, we will realize that every minute of every day can be lived according to God's will or our will – we always have choices to make. These choices are often very tiny and seemingly unimportant, but each moment offers us the opportunity to behave like a follower of Christ...or not. What choices will you make today? Tomorrow? Next week? Next month? How will these choices reflect the will of God?

I am very reluctant to close this message with what some might consider a trite comment, but it really is helpful for us to consider what Jesus might do or say when we are selecting our behaviors and our words. "WWJD" may be our guiding principle for 2016.

*Trying to offer my best,
Pastor Don*



Cathy's Comments...

Most of you have probably heard the phrase, "preaching to the choir." This generally means that you are trying to convince someone who already believes what you're telling them. Perhaps

that phrase has something to do with the dedication of the choir. They can be counted on for Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings, barring any unforeseen circumstances, and special performances. Just to let you know how dedicated this group is, I've added up the total years of choir members for this choir. I was amazed. Would you believe 550 years? That is dedication and a lot of choir experience (and a lot of sermons!).

When you get a chance, tell a choir member how much you appreciate them and their dedication. They are giving of their time and talents each week to enhance our worship. And in spite of that age old idiom, we still need to be preached to and we continue to need your prayers.

Singing His Praises—Cathy Gifford



Missions for 2016

As the Missions leader for 2016, I am stepping into the shoes of Don Cole. Although I have really big feet, I really can never fill the shoes his death left, but I will try.

Our church is known for its work in all areas of missional activities and I won't go into detail about them, but I will say we are going to continue and we are going to grow our programs. We will take the church into the community, which was what the original church was meant for; to lift those up who are weak and lost, to give aid to the discomforted, to give hope where there is little, to love others without reservation, as Christ loves us without reservation. To begin with, the Oklahoma United Methodist Con-

ference Disaster Programs is asking for volunteers to assist in Sand Springs January 23rd and 30th with tornado clean-up. The tornado in March of last year, which damaged our sanctuary roof, was never recognized as a federal disaster area, therefore there was no federal funding available to assist, and state funding was minimal. Most of the people affected by this storm did not have insurance and work still remains. This is our community. This isn't some distant location. We need to help our neighbors. If you are interested in helping, please let me know. My phone number is 918-851-9982 and my email is jbusterhall@yahoo.com

"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" and I said, "Here am I. Send me!" – *Isaiah 6:8 (NIV)*

Buster Hall



UMW News

Calling all women who would like to participate in a small group of fellowship, prayer and study, the UMW Circles are beginning a new year.

Faith Circle meets on the 4th Thursday at 7pm in the Parlor, on Jan. 28th. Priscilla Circle meets in members' homes on the 4th Tuesday, Jan. 26th at 7 pm. Call Virginia Baldrige for location. Ruth Esther Circle meets on the 4th Thursday at 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall on Jan. 28th.

Circle Chairs, be sure to call those who are responsible for the meeting and remind them as the Yearbooks won't be out until the date of the meeting.

Happy New Year with a Fresh Wind Blowing.

Also Ladies—All women of Sand Springs United Methodist Church: Mark your calendars for a church women's brunch on Saturday, March 5th at 9:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall. The guest speaker will be Deaconess Shelly Owen. Come and enjoy food and fellowship. Nursery will be available.



Hey Kids!

Didn't we have fun participating in the 5 o'clock Christmas Eve service! You guys rocked the donkey and sheep masks and the angel halos. It's not often you get to play in the hay at church. We should do it more

often..... Or not!

We are currently learning about Paul in Sunday School. We will begin our lessons on Easter through the story of Benjamin's Box in mid February. We hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and we know you will have a very Happy New Year!

Debbie & Marty & the whole Gang!

Our Website

We are aware that not everyone has computers or cares to take it up. We understand. For you, just give me a call and I will put together a calendar, directory, whatever you need.

For those of you on computers, phones and tablets, check out our website. You will find all kinds of information including the monthly calendar, archived newsletters, sermons, prayer requests... You can even submit calendar requests and prayer requests. We take a lot of pride in our website and hope you will as well!

Tracey

Coming Up

The FLC will be in use on Friday evening and Saturday. Sunday, January 17 at 2pm, the District Epiphany Celebration is taking place at First UMC in Tulsa. This is probably your last chance to hear the Bishop before he retires. You will not want to miss it!

The FLC will also be in use on the 17th from 10:45 to 1:30 for an outside group. The Office will be closed on Monday, January 18th.

Finance will meet on January 24th at 1:30 pm and Church Council will meet on January 24th at 2:30 pm. We will go back to the third Sunday each month for those 2 meetings beginning in February. Please mark your calendars.



Here is some of your 2016 Youth Dinner Schedule

1/13-Harmony
1/20-CIA/Pathfinders
1/27-Faith Circle
2/3-TNT
2/10-No Youth
2/17-Ruth Esther Circle
2/24-SIA
3/2-Priscilla Circle
3/9-Discovery/Crossroads
3/16-No Youth
3/23-Noah/Searchers
3/30-Harmony
4/6-CIA/Pathfinders
4/13-Faith Circle
4/20-TNT
4/27-Ruth Esther Circle
5/4-SIA
5/11-Priscilla Circle
5/18-Discovery/Crossroads
5/25-Noah/Searchers



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.

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

WE REALLY NEED YOUR HELP

You hear this all the time – “*We need your help*” – and, too often, you don’t believe that we are talking to you. So, just to clarify, WE ARE TALKING TO YOU. It takes a sizeable number of people to keep things going around this church. Standing Committees, made up of volunteers, do their very best to keep programs and missions in place to serve you and our community. The staff, two full-time and three part-time, manage the daily activities in the office, handle communications, and as much of the “everything” as we can manage. Then there are the few wonderful folks who volunteer for the once-in-awhile things and the every-week things that keep us rolling along.

Still, we need your help. We make announcements and we put out sign-up sheets and we try all sorts of things to encourage more people to get involved.

Still, we need your help. So, this year, from time-to-time, we are going to keep trying to recruit folks to do certain tasks that need to be done in an effort to either give someone a rest who has been doing a particular job for ages OR to get something done that is not now getting done. Either way: ***Still, we need your help.*** **Here is a list of jobs/tasks that need you right now:**

HELP WANTED: We are looking for someone who knows WordPress to maintain our website. This is not a huge task, but it is a somewhat regular commitment to ensure that our site does not get stale.

HELP WANTED: We are looking for someone to train to run the booth during our 11:00AM worship service. Ideally there will be more than one person interested so that we can set up a rotation so nobody is committed to every Sunday.

TASK: We need a light kit installed on the ceiling fan in the Choir Room.

TASK: We have several old tube televisions that need to be taken to the electronic recyclers. There may be some other appropriate disposition for these sets; we just need someone to take responsibility for the task of getting off the premises.

That’s enough for now. If you can help us with any of these things, please call the Church Office at 918-245-5955 OR talk to Pastor Don OR talk to anyone on our Leadership Team. ***Still, we need your help!***

Pictorial Directory

We are expecting our directories to be in very soon. Please understand, the first directories will go to those who had their picture taken. We get extra directories and they will be on a first come, first serve basis. No directories can be reserved. We will be putting a few back for new members as well. If you did not have your picture taken and you only want a directory for address, phone numbers, cell phones, e-mails or whatever, let me know. I can print off a directory with no pictures for you.

Tracey

Homebound/Shut-In’s

We heard so many wonderful comments from some of our folks who are unable to attend church right now for various reasons. They loved hearing from you; getting updates on church happenings and receiving your lovely Christmas cards.

Please don’t forget about them the rest of the year. Drop them a card, letter, even a token gift just to let them know you still think about them.



January

Sunday Lists

Sunday Volunteers—January 17

Visitors Center & Coffee-CIA/Pathfinders
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-Janie Moore & Kent Warkentin

Sunday Volunteers—January 24

Visitors Center & Coffee-CIA/Pathfinders
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.-Katherine Reeves
Counters-Diana Pond & Jack Vest

Please Keep In Prayer



Bob & Cathy Hula, BW Proft, Clare Caldwell,
Darryl Muse, Jack & Jewell Brown, Martha Scud-
der, 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, SSUMC & Unspoken Requests

Acknowledgements

Thank You...

The staff would like to thank you all so much for our generous Christmas bonuses. We are surprised every year by your kindness.

We also thank Daniel Comer and the Staff Parish Committee for treating us to lunch. It was so much fun; it was delicious and the fellowship could not be beat!

With Gratitude—The SSUMC Staff

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for your cards, prayers, visits and phone calls after my recent shoulder surgery (July 27, 2015). I am getting a little stronger every day. It seems like I have had a longer recovery than before. All of you have helped me.

I Love You—Louise Read

8:30 a.m. Worship Songs-January 17, 2016

Revival

Did You Feel the Mountains Tremble

Awakening

This I Believe

Holy Spirit

Hungry

For The Kids



In honor of Black History Month, put together a bulletin board with the children compiling a list of African-Americans that have made a difference.

Black History Month

usually will coincide with the 100th Day of School--this board could celebrate both occasions!!!

Tip: Pictures can easily be found and down-loaded with Internet Searches...

Also For The Kids



Did you do anything over the holidays you would like to share?

My grandkids and I made Playdough! It was so easy, I just have to share the recipe. We bought the little plastic containers with lids for almost nothing and the playdough is being stored in those.

Here is the recipe:

Mix together well:

1 Cup all purpose flour

1/2 Cup salt

2 Tbsp. Cream of Tartar

1 Tbsp. Cooking Oil

Add:

1 Cup Boiling Water.

You can add color to the water, but we had fun adding it after. It will mix quickly in the bowl and cools quick enough you can mix with your hands. Gracey Kate and Jayce even made it by themselves! Enjoy!! *Use rubber gloves when mixing in color!*



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Wednesday, January 13

7:30 a.m.-Men's Breakfast—Crescent Café

6:30 p.m.-Youth

7:00 p.m.-Chancel Choir

Thursday, January 14

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

Friday, January 15

FLC in use

Saturday, January 16

FLC in use

Sunday, January 17

8:30 a.m.-Contemporary Worship

9:45 a.m.-Communion Service

10:00 a.m.-Sunday School

10:45 a.m.-FLC in use*

11:00 a.m.-Traditional Worship

2:00 p.m.-District Epiphany Celebration-1st UMC Tulsa

Monday, January 18-Offices Closed

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

Tuesday, January 19

6:30 p.m.-Cub Scouts-FLC

7:00 p.m.-Praise Team

7:00 p.m.-Al-Anon-Upstairs

Wednesday, January 20

7:30 a.m.-Men's Breakfast—Crescent Café

6:30 p.m.-Youth

7:00 p.m.-Chancel Choir

Thursday, January 21

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

Friday, January 22

Saturday, January 23

Sunday, January 24

8:30 a.m.-Contemporary Worship

9:45 a.m.-Communion Service

10:00 a.m.-Sunday School

10:45 a.m.-FLC in use*

11:00 a.m.-Traditional Worship

1:30 p.m.-Finance Meeting

2:30 p.m.-Church Council Meeting

FLC—Family Life Center

*- Un-sponsored by SSUMC

OPCC-Operation Christmas Child

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