

The Springs



Rev. Don Tabberer



"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will

be able to test and approve what God's will is— His good, pleasing and perfect will." Romans 12:2 (NIV)

Dear Friends in Christ,

I recently read an article by Rev. William Obalil called **"Thinking Like Disciples."** Pastor Obalil says, "I fear not many weekly churchgoers are equipped to integrate what we hear and affirm in church with the concrete choices faced each day – at home, school, work, and marketplace. The result is functional atheism." *Ouch!*

We are challenged in this piece to live our lives as if God was really in charge; to make decisions based on what God's will for us truly is. What a concept – to actually allow God to help us make our everyday decisions. For example, as we contemplate a particular purchase, we ask "Can I afford this?" but we do not ask, "Is this good stewardship of my money?"

Oh sure, we go to church, we pray, we read the Bible, we give our offering – we do all the things that look like faithful discipleship. The question is: Do we really allow God's will to govern every single aspect of our lives? Do we think about God first – before we make a choice? Do we understand our lives within the framework of Christian categories like sin, grace, idolatry, peace, new creation, and agape love? Do we really allow our Christian faith to inform our "real life" outside of church?

Please indulge me here as I quote from Pastor Obalil's article; he says it so well: "I envision Christians who can thoughtfully ask whether consumerism may be more than a secular activity, whether it may be an alternative religious faith, like Baal worship was for Elijah's folk – involving a standard of value and a locus of trust other than God. I envision followers of Jesus who are grounded in biblical notions of hospitality as well as in political notions of national security as they enter the debate about immigration. I envision church members adopting a 'green' lifestyle not simply from fear of eco-

disaster but to fulfill the sacred calling to be faithful stewards of God's creation. I envision worshippers who witness to their neighbors how God in Christ is transforming their lives right now and not just changing their destination upon death...To **act** regularly as disciples of Jesus Christ, we must **think** regularly as disciples of Jesus Christ."

I think that all of us sometimes get so caught up in "doing church" that we forget what it really means to have a close personal relationship with God. Discipleship is all about this real relationship with the God who created us, saved us, and remains with us even now. It's all about getting to know God, learning what God expects from us, learning what pleases God, and then actually living our lives with God's will in the forefront of everything.

Think about what it was like when we began our relationship with our spouse. We took the time and made the effort to find out what makes this person happy. We wanted to know how to please them. As our relationship grew, we discovered that we often thought of their needs and desires before we thought about ourselves. We began to make choices that helped maintain a healthy and happy relationship. Shouldn't it be the same in our relationship with God?

In Matthew 10:37, Jesus tells us that there is absolutely no relationship more important than the one we have with God. If we truly believe that and allow it to govern our lives, then every choice we make will consider God's will first and our will second. That's a tall order and it flies in the face of everything our culture tells us. Of course, we are called to live contrary to culture – see Paul's words to the Romans above – we are called to discern and follow God's will, not the will of 21st Century America. It's not easy to do and all of us fall short, time and time again. Christ came to rescue us from our dead-end way of thinking and living – he came to show us a new way of thinking and living. He also came to give us the power to learn how to do it. I pray that each one of us can learn to think like disciples of Jesus Christ so that we can live like disciples. Amen.

Seeking right choices
Pastor Don



Hey Kids-
Join us for...

...Hero Central VBS!

July 16th - 20th from 6:15-8:30

Family Night: July 20th at Family Life Center

All participants who pre-register by July 15th will receive a free t-shirt.

link to registration:

<http://2017.cokesburyvbs.com/SandSpringsUMC/>

Registration forms are also available in the Narthex.

Volunteer workdays to be announced.

We are in need of cardboard boxes in all shapes and sizes. They can be left by door that exits to Caleb House.

Attention VBS volunteers

We will meet Saturday July 15th at 9:00 a.m. in the Caleb House. We will work in Caleb House and then will work in sanctuary and narthex after Kristen/Albert wedding is over. Any time you can help will be greatly appreciated.

Also on Sunday, July 16th at 5:30 we will meet in the parlor for a short meeting-please plan to attend.

Thanks-we appreciate your help!

Debbie and Marty

Attention all cookie bakers:

Cookies needed for VBS closing on Thursday, July 20th- 6:15-8:30- at Family Life Center.



Hey Kids-

What a great time we had yesterday as we finished our story about 'The Good Samaritan'. We learned about some of the products that come from the rain forest. We played a rain forest adventure for our noses and you all did a great job guessing what each smell the product

was. We learned about the Capuchin monkey and how they can be trained to help people whose arms and legs do not work. You all did a great job creating stuffed monkeys. Remember that God loves you and wants you to share His love with others. Have a wonderful week and remember that VBS starts next Sunday, July 16th.

Miss Debbie and Miss Marty

Sunday Lists

Sunday Volunteers—July 16

Visitors Center & Coffee: Discovery
Head Usher-8:30am: Amanda Honeycutt
Head Usher-11:00am: Eddy David
Child. Church: 8:30am: Kingdom Kids
Teaching: Jami Warkentin
Children's Church: Jo Fritts
Counters: Diana Pond & Jack Vest

Sunday Volunteers—July 23

Visitors Center & Coffee: Discovery
Head Usher-8:30am: Amanda Honeycutt
Head Usher-11:00am: Eddy David
Child. Church-8:30am: Kingdom Kids
Teaching: Jami Warkentin
Children's Church: Debbie Schmidt
Counters: Betty or Howard Smith & Karen Wilder

Mission Study on Climate Justice

If you ever wanted to know how you can sustain the earth for your children and grandchildren, then this study is for you.

Dates: July 29th on Saturday from 10:00 to 12:00 in the Fellowship Hall. The second half of the study is on Thursday, Aug. 3rd from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Leaders are Wava Burt and Jay and Judy Bullard. There will be a special section on the pure water situation in the world.

Contact Judy Bullard at 918-693-1279 for more information and to register so we can be sure to have enough handouts. There will be a nursery, if needed just let Judy know. Men, women, and youth are all invited.

July
Welcome

Please Keep In Prayer



Please remember these in your prayers:

Martha Scudder, Linda Tabberer, Charlene Reeves, Bill Gifford, Montie Box, Greta Green, Max Schuermann, David Allen, Elsie Jones, Sue Shaw, Bob & Cathy Hula, BW Proft, Montie Box, Albert Kahl's mom & sister in law, John & Sylvia Johnson, Bill & Clare Caldwell, Jack & Jewell Brown, Barbara McClintock, Angy Krebs-Warden, Ron Hay, Ruth Weaver

If someone needs to be added to the prayer list or someone was taken off too soon, please contact Tracey in the front office so the prayer list can be updated.



*We Offer our Prayers & Sympathy
to the friends and family of
Home Jackson*

*We especially pray for Juanita
for the loss of her sweet husband.*

*Cards can be sent to Juanita at
6377 S. Hwy. 97
Sapulpa, OK 74066*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR SAND SPRINGS UMC

Monday, July 10

7:00pm-Boy Scouts-FLC

Tuesday, July 11

7:00pm-Praise Team Practice

7:00pm-Al-Anon-Upstairs

Wednesday, July 12

7:30am-Men's Breakfast-Crescent Café

5:45pm-Y4Y

6:30pm-The Awakening—Youth

7:00pm-NO Chancel Choir Practice

Thursday, July 13

*7:00pm-Collins Karate-FLC

Friday, July 14

No Activities

Saturday, July 15

9:00am-VBS Worker Mtg.-Caleb Hs.

11:00am-Church in use

Sunday, July 16

8:30am-Contemporary Worship

9:45am-Communion Service

10:00am-Sunday School

11:00am-Traditional Worship

5:30pm-VBS Worker Meeting

6:15PM-VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!!!

Monday, July 17

6:15PM-VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!!!

7:00pm-Boy Scouts-Family Life Center

Tuesday, July 18

6:15PM-VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!!!

Wednesday, July 19

7:30am-Men's Breakfast-Crescent Café

1:30pm-NO Mission To Stitch

5:45pm-NO Y4Y

6:15PM-VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!!!

6:30pm-Youth-Helping with VBS

7:00pm-NO Chancel Choir

NO TRACEY JULY 17-24

*FLC-Family Life Center
*-Not sponsored by
SSUMC but welcome*

*For more calendar
information, call the
office at
918-245-5955.*

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Family Life Center: 918-245-3725
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