

The Springs



Rev. Don Tabberer



Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" (John 21:15)

This line is part of a longer section near the end of

John's gospel, often called "The Farewell Discourse". Here Jesus asks Peter the same question three times, "Do you love me?" When you first read this Scripture you may feel, even as Peter may have, that Jesus is just being annoying. The question is asked and answered; move on! There is more to this exchange than is at first obvious to us, and to Peter. What is the point Jesus is trying to make here and how should we respond?

The first thing most preachers will tell you about this verse is that it is intended to remind Peter that he denied Jesus three times just a few days before this. Peter was so sure he would remain loyal and yet he easily said, "I do not know the man!" three times when Jesus needed him the most. When Jesus keeps coming at Peter with the question, "Do you love me?" it seems like he is scolding Peter. That may be partially true; it fits and we kind of like seeing Peter get in trouble for being so bad.

I think there is more to the story than that, however. We need to look at all that Jesus says during this exchange with Peter. One thing to notice is only evident when we look at the Greek words used in this story. Jesus uses the Greek word *agapēō*, which refers to unselfish, sacrificial love. Agape is not an emotional feeling, it is an act of our will; it is the kind of love God has for us. Peter uses the Greek word *philēō*, which refers to the warm, emotional feeling of affection we have for friends; it seeks to make others happy. The difference is clear when we realize that we do not harbor *philēō* toward our enemies, but God commands us to

have *agapēō* for everyone, including our enemies. Jesus tells Peter that, if Peter truly loves him, he will then "feed my sheep"; in other words, Peter is called to care for all the people Jesus cares for – that is everyone. The real message in this text is that Jesus tells all of us to have *agapēō* for every human being; to care for them and treat them as God's own. This now brings new meaning to Jesus' call for the disciples to become "fishers of men." This text brings us around to what it means to "make disciples."

Catching fish, or bringing people into church, is a good thing. Often, however, we seem to disconnect after the fish get into the net. What do we do with all the fish? There are so many different kinds of fish; they have so much potential and so many different purposes. Sometimes the church brings the net on shore and then leaves the fish flapping around on their own until they either die or find their way back into the water for someone else to catch. It seems the modern church operates a "catch and release" form of evangelism.

Jesus gives Peter a different vision. Once caught, the fish become part of the flock of sheep. They need care; they need to be fed; they need someone to love them enough to keep them from feeling left out on their own. Making disciples is simply about caring for and about the people God places in our lives. It means helping them get to know who Jesus is and who we are as members of the Body of Christ. If we really love Jesus, as we say we do, then we will care for and tend the flock of sheep; the catch of fish; the people that God loves as much as God loves us.

**Tending,
Pastor Don**



UMW News

August 1, 9:30-3:00 at Boston Ave. UMC, there is a Mission study on Latin America. Bring your own lunch. (Brown Bag_ Study books will be available

to purchase at Boston Ave.

Contact JoAnn Nelson if you want more info.

August 6th, Thursday evening 6:00 p.m. is our Unit Meeting in the Fellowship Hall. It is a salad supper. Everyone bring something. The UMW Executive Committee will do the setup and cleanup. We will be making mats for the homeless. Bring your plastic bags, scissors, tape measures, large crochet hooks if you want to do that part of the creating..

September 12 is the District Annual Meeting. It will be at First UMC in Broken Arrow. The host church is providing the meat, drinks and dessert. We are to bring the salads and vegetables. Save the date!

Our UMW Pledge to missions helps to support” the consecrated and commissioned deaconesses and home missionaries commit as laity to a lifetime of professional vocation led by the Spirit of God in ministries of love, justice, and service. The ministry is to represent Christ in the world employing the love and concern of the believing community for the needs of the world.”

“The Bible Women Program brings leadership training and development to marginalized people in rural and urban areas. Women work with trainers to study the Bible, literacy, health, nutrition, economic development and women’s rights.” More info at www.unitedmethodistwomen.org.



Hey, Seniors in Action! Let’s meet for a pot-luck lunch at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, July 29th, in the Fellowship Hall. Our guest speaker will be a representative from Gideon’s International. A love offering will be taken.



FOOD.... Think summer picnic! Watermelon, deviled eggs, potato salad, baked beans, cake, 3 bean salad, cookies, chips, brownies, pies! Got the idea??? Hot dogs, buns, and fixin’s will be provided. Questions? – Call Max or Sharon at 918-246-9159.



August Events

- 1—9:30 am-UMW Mission Study-Boston Ave. UMC
- 1—11 a.m.-3 p.m.-Chelsea Schooley Baby Shower-F. H.
- 6—6 p-UMW Salad Supper -F. Hall
- 8—7 am-Helping Hands-Start in F. Hall
- 9—12 pm-Williams Collett Baptism Reception-F. Hall
- 9—2 pm-Staff Parish Committee Meeting
- 16—1:30 pm-Finance Committee Meeting
- 16—2:30 pm-Church Council Meeting
- 19—7:00 pm-Chancel Choir Resumes
- 20—Sand Springs Schools first day
- 24—6:30 pm-Bible Study-F. Hall
- 25—6:30 pm-Priscilla Circle Salad Supper
- 26—10:00 am-Bible Study-Parlor
- 27—7:00 pm-Faith Circle-Parlor
- 31—6:30 pm-Bible Study—F. Hall

Please Keep In Prayer

Prayer List: Barbara McClintock, Billie Schmidt, Bob & Cathy Hula, BW Proft, Clare Caldwell, Craig Cooper, Darryl Muse, Drew Durham, Jack Brown, Keith Carter, Magen Stockard, Martha Scudder, Owen Johnston, Paul Waldschmidt, Riley McNeer, Ruth Weaver, Sylvia Johnson, Tristan Schwartz, Suzanne Jones, Louise Read, Don Cole, Unspoken Requests

Sunday Lists

Sunday Volunteers—August 2

Visitors Center & Coffee-TNT

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.-Lisa & Caleb Massey

Counters-Diana Pond & Jack Vest

Youth Dinner for July 29-Seniors In Action

Youth Dinner for August 5-Priscilla Circle

Sunday Volunteers—August 9

Visitors Center & Coffee-TNT

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.-Kat Katzung

Counters-Betty or Howard Smith & Karen Wilder

Youth Dinner for August 12-Discovery/ Crossroads

Youth Dinner for August 19-Noah/Searchers

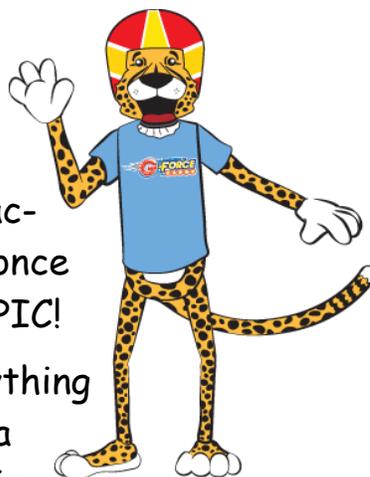
Acknowledgements

VBS Workers

Rock!

Your hard work, dedication, happy faces, and flexibility once again made VBS EPIC!

Thank you for everything you did to make it a smooth and fantastic week! We couldn't do it without you!



SSUMC Youth...



Hello my Sand Springs United Methodist Church family! I hope you all enjoyed the weekend and are doing your best to stay cool. Summer in Oklahoma is always brutal and I now carry around a gal-

lon of water to do my best to stay hydrated. Sometimes though you just have to stay in the A/C and not even think about going outside. This week we just finished up VBS and I have to say being Coach Holt was a blast! I hope you all had as much fun as I did. I have helped out with VBS in the past at my old church in Broken Arrow, but never to the extent of acting and being in charge of games. It was a great time and to see those kids laugh, smile, and worship God is something incredible. I want to thank everybody who helped out and made this possible. VBS is a great time and opportunity to minister to kids that we may not be able to all the time. Just because we don't get a new family or five new kids from VBS doesn't mean God wasn't working or it wasn't a success. This was the time to plant the seed and get the kids to start thinking what a relationship with Christ looks like. We can't expect that to happen in three or four nights. The reality of the situation is that we might never see the reward and positive impact VBS has on some of these kids, because we might never see them again, but I can tell you that what you guys did and volunteered for was incredible and meant a lot to each of those kids. Being present for the kids and showing them that you care and want what's best for them is priceless. VBS can get tiring, especially working all day and then having to come to church for a couple hours each night, but each night I would come with the perspective that I am doing something bigger than myself and these kids deserve a positive Tristan. I love you all and hope you have a great week.

Stewardship Ministry Meeting

Thursday, July 30

7:00 p.m.-Church Parlor

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Wednesday, July 29

7:30 a.m.-Men's Breakfast—Crescent Café
11:30 a.m.-SIA Potluck-F. Hall
6:00 p.m.-NO Chancel Ringers
6:30 p.m.-Youth
7:00 p.m.-NO Chancel Choir

Thursday, July 30

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

Friday, July 31

No Activities

Saturday, August 1

9:30 a.m.-UMW Mission Study-Boston Ave. UMC
10:00 a.m.-Back To School Bash—Tulsa Technology Center
11:00 a.m.-Chelsea Schooley Baby Shower-F. Hall

Sunday, August 2

8:30 a.m.-Modern Worship; 11:00 a.m.-Classic Worship
10:00 a.m.-Sunday School

Monday, August 3

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

Tuesday, August 4

1:00 p.m.-Staff Meeting
6:30 p.m.-Cub Scouts-FLC
7:00 p.m.-NO Praise Team
7:00 p.m.-AI-Anon-Upstairs

Wednesday, August 5

7:30 a.m.-Men's/Women's Breakfast—Crescent Café
6:00 p.m.-NO Chancel Ringers
6:30 p.m.-Youth
7:00 p.m.-NO Chancel Choir

Thursday, August 6

6:00 p.m.—UMW Salad Supper with Program-F. Hall
7:00 p.m.-Karate-FLC*

Friday, August 7

No Activities

FLC—Family Life Center

* - Unsponsored by SSUMC



T-Shirts are Arriving!

The t-shirts will be ready for pickup this Sunday at the church. Please bring payment with you when you pick them up. The price is \$10 each.

There are a few extras if you did not get your order in. Kristen will also be sending in another order soon. Just let her know Sunday if you are interested in ordering.