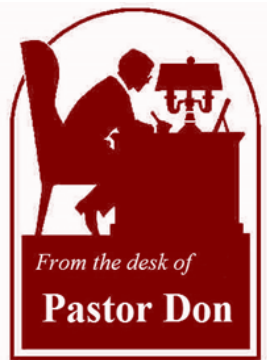


The Springs



Rev. Don Tabberer



THE LESSON OF THE FIG TREE

"Take a lesson from the fig tree. From the moment you notice its buds form, the merest hint of green, you know summer's just around the corner. So it is with you: When you see all these things, you'll know he's at the door. Don't

take this lightly. I'm not just saying this for some future generation, but for all of you. This age continues until all these things take place. Sky and earth will wear out; my words won't wear out. But the exact day and hour? No one knows that, not even heaven's angels, not even the Son. Only the Father knows. (Matthew 24:32-36, MSG)

In its original context, this parable refers to the fig tree because of its character. The fig tree was famous for being strong, growing to thirty-feet tall. And it was patient because it waited through all threats of late frost and bloomed at just the right time for optimum survival. It would seem then that Jesus is telling his followers to be patient and to be ready for whatever comes.

We often hear this parable interpreted to mean that the Second Coming of Christ is imminent. People are prone to seeing the events of our day as being **"these things"** that Jesus talks about, leading them to foretell yet another "end of days" scenario. This tendency may stem from the fact that the usual text layout for this parable ends at verse 35, leaving out the part that begins above with: *"But the exact day and hour?"* That is a classic example of taking scripture out of context in order to serve your pre-conceived interpretation. Unfortunately, it is a wrong way of viewing Jesus' words and it does a disservice to what Jesus is calling us to do as his followers today.

So, what is Jesus talking about here and what might it mean for us in 2016? We can look back at this parable and recognize that Jesus did not return soon after he gave this message. We can see that he was not referring to his return to earth at the end of days. We have the benefit of hindsight. What Jesus is talking about in this story is the destruction of the Temple, which happened in 70 A.D., and the persecution of the church that continued for years afterward. He is warning his disciples to be prepared for these events and to be unwavering in their work to spread the good news of Jesus. It would be hard work with little reward; they would suffer but, in the end, Jesus would win. For us, **"these things"** are indeed manifest in our culture and the horrible things that people are doing to one another every day. We see countless examples of bad behavior and hateful rhetoric that causes us to throw up our hands and shout: **"The world has gone to hell in a hand basket!"** I don't think we'd be far off. However, what Jesus is saying to us is: *"Yes, these things are happening and will continue to happen. Even so, I am faithful and my words to you are true. Stay the course and I will make everything right in the end."*

The message to us seems to be that God is well aware of what is going on here and is relying on us to help spread the good news to as many people as possible while we have time. We must keep going in the face of the worst possible odds. We must always keep hope that one more person can be saved; one more life can be healed. In our Church Council meeting on Sunday someone reminded us that church is for the broken people. We must keep trying to heal that brokenness until God decides the time is right to return.

Waiting patiently,
Pastor Don



**SURF
SHACK**
"Catch the
Wave of God's
Amazing Love."
**Vacation Bible
School**
July 17-21
6:15-8:30 p.m.

Be sure to register so you can get a free t-shirt. Do it online or fill out a form found on the table in the Narthex.

!!!!VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!!

We need your help! Come join our kids at Surf Shack and "Catch the Wave of God's Amazing Love." There are sign up sheets on the table in the narthex. Also, we are needing cookies for the closing program on Thursday, July 21.

Please save the following dates for helping with set up, decorating, and other things:

Friday, July 8 at 5 p.m.; Saturday, July 9 at 9 am.

Friday, July 15 at 5 p.m.; Saturday, July 16 at 9 a.m.

ALSO PLEASE NOTE: We need a black light and newspapers. These can be left at the back door that leads to the Caleb House.

Thanks—Marty & Debbie

The Circles are on vacation in July and August.

Mission U is scheduled the weekend of July 24-26 at OCU in Oklahoma City. The Studies are Latin America, Climate Justice, and The Bible and Human Sexuality. Registration needs to be in by July 12. Contact Susan Edwards for more information.

A big thank you goes to Sharon Schuermann and Tracey Ginn for completing 2 sleeping mats for the homeless. They were given to the Sand Springs Community Service Center.

August 11 is our next Unit Meeting. Be watching for the topic next month.

Project Transformation

SSUMC participated in Project Transformation the week of June 13-16 at Metropolitan Baptist Church. There were 55 campers present. We served lunch daily to 14 college interns and also provided daily snacks for the campers. The following ladies read with the students: Virginia Baldrige, Becky Barnes, Susan Edwards, Linda Garrison, Cathy Gifford, Norma Jones, Tracie Marshall, Jody Seaman and Betty Smith. We would like to thank Dick Ford for providing his wonderful brisket lunch one day and Rib Crib for providing on another day for the interns. Another SSUMC Success!



UMW News

May was a very busy one of the UMW Circles with all the Memorial Flower Sales. Trish House and her team deserve a great big THANK YOU. Our two

fundraisers this year enabled us to meet our mission budget of \$3,200 to the District. With our personal pledges, the local missions will be covered. The flowers for next year are picked up and stored for cleaning. We were able to give a donation to the Prom Promise Fund and many of our members participated in the Project Transformation fundraiser at Panera Bread.

Happy July from the Staff



Sunday Lists

Sunday Volunteers—July 3

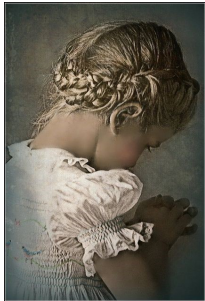
Visitors Center & Coffee-Discovery
 Head Usher-11:00 a.m.-Eddy David
 Child. Church-8:30 a.m.-Kingdom Kids
 Teaching: Jami Warkentin
 Child. Church-11:00 a.m.-Debbie Schmidt
 Counters-Sheree Buttler & Jami Warkentin

Sunday Volunteers—July 10

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.-Susie Honeycutt
 Counters-Janie Moore & Kent Warkentin

August Coffee: TNT

Please Keep In Prayer



*Martha Scudder, Linda Tabberer,
 Bob & Cathy Hula, BW Proft, Bill &
 Clare Caldwell, Darryl Muse, Jack
 Brown, Owen Johnston, Tristan
 Schwartz, Charlene Reeves, Delbert
 Sloan, Mark Hill, Jim McCormick,
 Pauline Hanigar, Barbara
 McClintock, SSUMC & Unspoken Re-
 quests*

PLEASE NOTE

Personal events scheduled at the
 Family Life Center will now
 require a filled out form to be filed with
 the front office.
 See Tracey for a form.

Help Wanted

**We are seeking nursery
 attendants to start immediately.
 Please contact the Church Office.**



Here are your
2016 Newsletter
weeks. Please
remember-articles are
due by 11 a.m. on this
date. Please, mark
your calendars.

June 27
 July 11
 July 25
 August 8
 August 22

September 5
 September 19
 October 3
 October 17
 October 31
 November 14
 November 28
 December 12
 January 9, 2017

Here is some of your **2016 Youth Dinner Schedule**

6/29-Seniors In Action
 7/6-No Youth
 7/13-Priscilla Circle
 7/20-Noah/Searchers
 7/27-Harmony
 8/3-No Youth
 8/10-CIA/Pathfinders
 8/17-Faith Circle
 8/24-TNT
 8/31-Ruth Esther Circle

Newsletter News

If you now someone who has been getting
 the newsletter and suddenly, they aren't—
 let Tracey know. A computer issue caused
 us to lose some contacts and some of
 those are the newsletter e-mail list. We
 don't want anyone to miss out on any up-
 coming events or church news.

tginn@sandspringsumc.org

918-245-5955

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR SAND SPRINGS UMC

Tuesday, June 28

5:30pm-Cub Scouts-FLC
6:30pm-Priscilla Circle Ladies Night Out
7:00pm-Praise Team
7:00pm-Al-Anon-Upstairs

Wednesday, June 29

7:30am-Men's Breakfast-Crescent Café
Youth—contact Tristan for today's schedule change
7:00pm-Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, June 30

*7:00pm-Collins Karate-FLC

Friday, July 1

FLC in use

Saturday, July 2

No Activities

Sunday, July 3

8:30am-Contemporary Worship
10:00am-1st Sunday Missions
10:00am-Sunday School
11:00am-Traditional Worship
2:00pm-Staff Parish Meeting

Monday, July 4-Offices Closed-Happy Independence Day!

7:00pm-Boy Scouts-Family Life Center

Tuesday, July 5

5:30pm-Cub Scouts-FLC
7:00pm-Praise Team Rehearsal
7:00pm-Al-Anon-Upstairs

Wednesday, July 6

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

Thursday, July 7-Dayspring Camp

*7:00pm-Collins Karate-FLC

Friday, July 9

5:00pm-VBS Decorating

Saturday, July 10

9:00am-VBS Decorating

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

It's Weed Pullin' Time!

If you have time, the desire, and are willing, please feel free to pull the weeds out of the flower beds at the church.

