

The Springs



Rev. Don Tabberer



"O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water." (Psalm 63:1, NIV)

Dear Friends in Christ,

Have you ever been so thirsty that your tongue stuck to the roof of your mouth and you felt like you might choke from the lack of moisture? Think of a hot August afternoon when the temperature peaks past 100 degrees and there doesn't seem to be a glass big enough to hold the water you need to drink. Has your skin ever felt so dry that you think it might just crack or it itches and no amount of scratching brings relief? Think of a cold winter day when the furnace dries the air, your skin is stretched tight and the bottle of Nivea cream just went empty. This is what it feels like to face complete spiritual dryness that parches the soul.

David's words echo to us from the barren desert where he is hiding from his enemies and longing for the presence of God to comfort him. He speaks of a deep spiritual thirst and a physical aching for God to nourish and sooth him. David's longing is not unlike our own. I believe we all have a deep hunger and thirst for God in our lives. I also believe that we often fail to acknowledge this longing and mask it behind the busy-ness of life. We don't want to admit when we really need God; we are too accustomed to being self-reliant. If we surrender to God we might appear weak or we might have to turn away from something we really enjoy. What we forget is this from Proverbs 3:6, *"In everything you do, put God first, and He will direct you and crown your efforts with success."* In other words, if we surrender our selves to God our spiritual hunger and thirst will be satisfied.

The season of Lent reminds us that we live in the desert of a culture where the presence of God is needed to comfort, teach, and guide. There is a spiritual hunger and thirst for healing and wholeness. It seems that we cannot watch the news or read the newspaper without encountering *"a dry and weary land where there is no water."* Spiritual dryness surrounds diplomatic relations around the globe, political maneuvering in Washington, and even the witness of the church. The two great commandments to love God and love others have been overshadowed by self-serving desires to make the biggest impact and have

the last word. It doesn't seem to matter if we do the "right thing" as long as we give in to the loudest voice or make the biggest profit. God's will has little bearing on our decision-making anymore and the needs of the least among us are simply ignored. This is spiritual dryness that chokes us as people of God.

Jesus said, *"If anyone is thirsty, let them come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him."* (John 7:37-38, NIV) This living water is God's gift to us to satisfy the kind of thirst and longing David had. This living water is available to everyone, free of charge, to sooth and to heal the dry, cracked land that wants to keep us away from God. Our challenge is to be sure that we fill ourselves with the living water and satisfy our own thirsty souls. Then we have everything we need to go out and share this nourishment with others. As the Body of Christ, we are obligated to care for the health of the Body. We are called to nourish the body of believers and provide a witness to others who seek to be satisfied. We cannot simply be content to bask in the luxury of the love that God shows to us; we must carry the living water out into those dry places...to that *"dry and weary land where there is no water."*

Lent is the perfect time for us to journey out of the desert and into the oasis of God's Living Water. If we do, we will be prepared to greet the Risen Christ and carry resurrection healing to a dry and weary land. As we prepare for Easter, we must consider how we will carry the Living Water out to the world. What will we do as a church to quench this parched world? Our mission and ministry are vital to the task and we must do all we can to be sure that our ministries continue. We talked on Sunday about giving something up for Lent so that we develop a habit. One thing that helps us do is see what we can give up that enables us to give more to God's church. If we develop the habit of more generous giving, we will help ensure the mission of the church long into the future. I urge you to use this Lenten season as a time to discern how your gifts can be given to God to help carry the Living Water out to refresh the world.

Refreshed,
Pastor Don

Lent



March 7-Sand Springs UMC

March 14-St. Andrew Lutheran

March 21-Dillon Chapel at Woodland Memorial Park

March 28-First Presbyterian Church

April 4-St. Patrick's Catholic Church

April 11-St. Matthew's Episcopal Church



Cathy's Notes

It's cantata time again and we have begun work on our new Easter cantata, "What Love Is This?" It contains both old and new

tunes I am sure you will enjoy. The cantata will be presented on Good Friday, April 14.

One of the older songs in the cantata is "Near the Cross," words by Fanny Crosby. Born in 1820, in Putnam County, New York, Miss Crosby became blind early in her life. She attended a school for the blind and later taught there and became well known for her poetry. It was not until she was thirty years old, that Fanny began a personal relationship with God, after attending a revival at New York's Thirtieth Street Methodist Church. Soon after, she turned her poetry writing to hymn writing. She wrote over 8,000 hymns, although many of them were rewrites of her earlier hymns. In 1869, William H. Doane gave Fanny a melody to which she wrote the words for "Near the Cross." Our Kingdom Kids have been busy, too. They have been working on the song "Cool Under Fire," about Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. It features several of our children on solos. We also have been learning how to play the hand chimes and hope to have a song ready for Palm Sunday (both services).

Nick Nerrin will be playing the prelude on our newly repaired pipe organ at the second service on March 12. You won't want to miss it.

And as always, it is a joy to serve God through music with such dedicated and talented musicians.

Singing His Joy,
Cathy Gifford

Herbal Affair—Goodies Needed!!!

The Herbal Affair is just around the corner on April 22 and it's time to start digging out favorite recipes or looking for new ones. As far as I know, we will be able to bake in our own kitchens this year. I have a call into the Tulsa Health Department to verify. We need help in the cinnamon roll department this year. David Allen, our premier cinnamon roll maker, is having knee surgery in mid-April and will be unable to make the cinnamon rolls this year. So, if anyone knows how to make them, please let me know. The UMW will furnish all of the ingredients -- we just need someone who knows how to turn the ingredients into cinnamon rolls. We normally make them at the FLC on Thursday before the Herbal Affair on Saturday and there are plenty of helpers. If you have any questions, give me a call at (918) 241-3259. Thanks, Karen

Attention all United Methodist Women!!

Please join us on Saturday, March 11th, at 9:30 a.m. in our fellowship hall for a delicious brunch. Plan on bringing something yummy to share. This brunch is open to all women in our church --- you do not have to be a member of a UMW circle to join us! Guest speaker this year will be Brenda Gill with Pearl's Hope. Brenda will be talking about how Pearl's Hope gives women HOPE, changes their lives, and ultimately, our communities.

We will be collecting laundry pods for Pearl's Hope, so please pick up a box to donate. Brenda says they will really appreciate it.

If any questions contact your circle chair, or Leesa @ 918-519-4946 cell or home 918-241-4230. Hope to see you there!



SHHHH.... It's a Surprise!

Linda Garrison's kids are giving her a Surprise 70th Birthday Party and you are invited. Saturday, March 11th from 3 to 7 p.m. at the Family

Life Center. Drop by, give her a hug, drop off a card... But do not tell her!

Sunday Lists

Sunday Volunteers—March 12

Visitors Center & Coffee-Discovery
 Head Usher-8:30-Amanda Honeycutt
 Head Usher-11:00 a.m.-Eddy David
 Child. Church-8:30 a.m.-Kingdom Kids
 Teaching: Jami Warkentin
 Counters-Sondra Allen & Dick Ford

Sunday Volunteers—March 19

Visitors Center & Coffee-Discovery
 Head Usher-8:30-Amanda Honeycutt
 Head Usher-11:00 a.m.-Eddy David
 Child. Church-8:30 a.m.-Kingdom Kids
 Teaching: Jami Warkentin
 Counters-Bob Barnes & Jami Warkentin

March Coffee-Discovery Class
April Coffee: TNT

Please Keep In Prayer



Please remember these in your prayers:

Martha Scudder, Linda Tabberer, Charlene Reeves, Elsie Jones, Sue Shaw, Bob & Cathy Hula, BW Proft, Bill & Clare Caldwell, Delbert Sloan, Ruth Weaver, Jack & Jewell Brown, Owen Johnston, Tristan Schwartz, Darryl Muse, Mark Hill, Pauline Hanigar, Ruth Weaver, Glenda Paul-Reyna, Barbara McClintock, Angy Krebs-Warden, Montie Box, Albert Kahl's mom & sister in law, Michelle Nelson, Sylvia Johnson, Eldin & Barb's great grandson, Jerry Lund, Linda Lund, Claire LaPorte, SSUMC & Unspoken Requests

THANK YOU!!

The 4th, 5th & 6th grade Encounter Class would like to give a really big THANK YOU to each and everyone who donated the coats and blankets to our project. We appreciate all of you for the support you always give us. You are greatly appreciated and loved. We can't do these things without your help. These kids truly have Jesus in their hearts.



Here are your **2017 Newsletter weeks. Please remember-articles are due by 11 a.m. on this date. Please, mark your calendars.**

June 26	July 10
July 24	August 7
August 21	August 31
September 4?	September 18
October 2	October 16
October 30	November 13
November 27	December 11
January 8, 2018	

March 6
 March 20
 April 3
 April 17
 May 1
 May 15
 May 29 ?
 June 12



Here is some of your **2017 Youth Dinner Schedule**

- March 8-Ruth Esther Circle
- March 15-Spring Break-No Dinner
- March 22-Seniors In Action
- March 29-Priscilla Circle
- April 5-Noah/Searchers
- April 12-Harmony
- April 19-CIA/Pathfinders
- April 26-Faith Circle

A Facility Usage Form must be filled out to use the Fellowship Hall or the Family Life Center. Call the office for a copy of the form.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday—8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
 Closed 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. for Lunch

Please remember, push the door bell button before using your key. The front door is unlocked with the key but magnet locked for us to buzz you in. If you use your key, you will not be able to get in as it will actually lock the door. If no one clicks you in, go ahead and use your key.



Missions Update –

In February, several of us met to discuss our Council Oak missional connections with Lake UMC, West Tulsa UMC, Mannford UMC, Grace UMC and SSUMC. I proposed we call ourselves RiverWalk Connections, to emphasize our connections along the Arkansas River, which passes through all of our communities, as well as the emphasis of rivers in Scripture.

I would like to re-invigorate our 2nd Saturday Helping Hands program and make it “RiverWalk Helping Hands”. I would like to meet in Fellowship Hall on April 8th at 7:30 for coffee and doughnuts. We will have prayer and then go and work on cleaning the walking path that runs through our church communities. We will work that morning and stop around noon. We will invite the other churches in our connection to join us. Maybe we can split into groups with people from other

congregations to work together and get to know others.

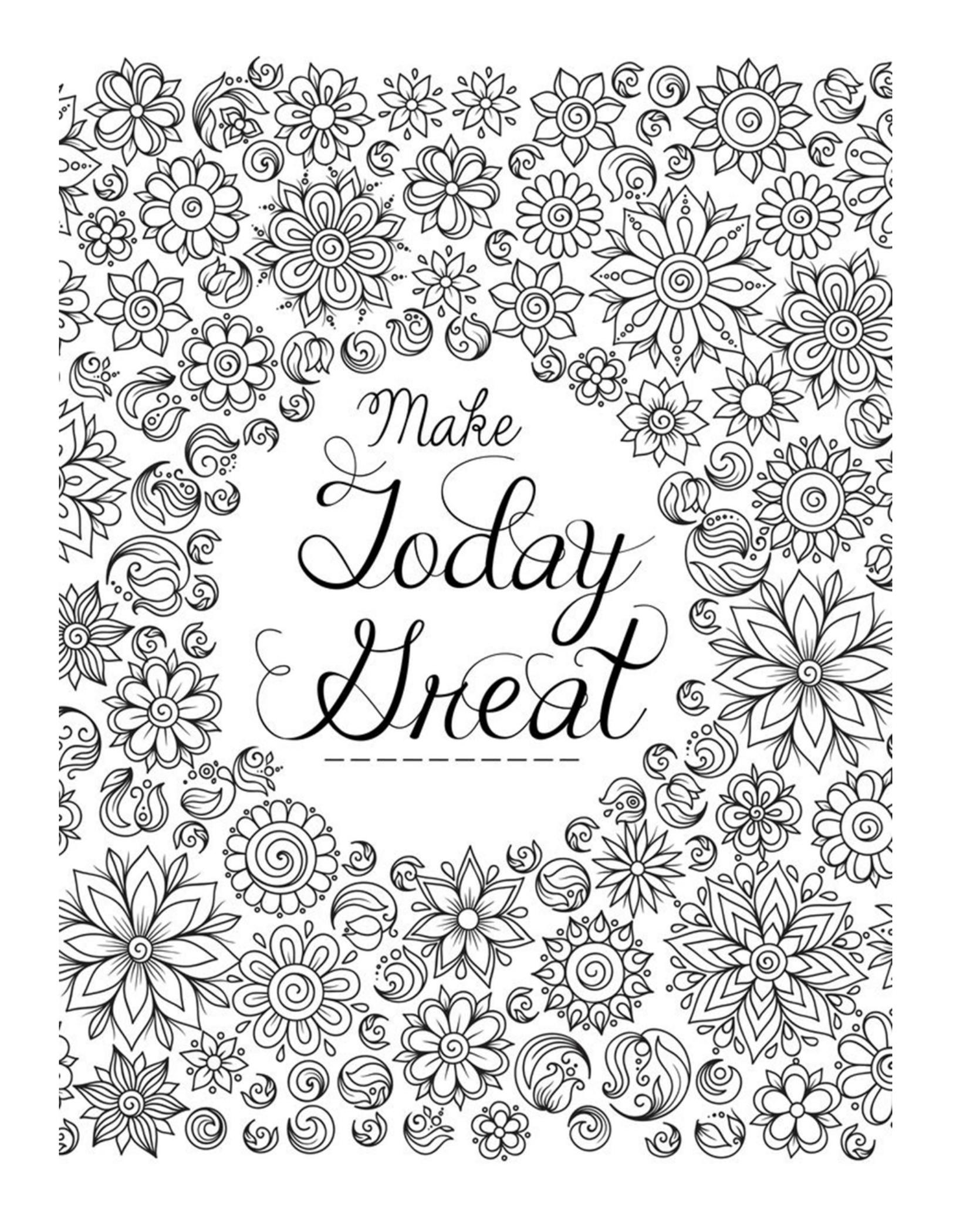
Other ideas were discussed and watch for more information to come out as we move forward with ideas to take the church to the community.

I am going to be at the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma the morning of Saturday April 1st (no April Fool!) to work with my students from NSU and you are welcome to join us. If you are interested, please let me know and I can explain to you the new registration process if you have never volunteered there or if it has been awhile.

Finally, for those of you who are looking for a more “challenging” mission opportunity, I am taking NSU students to southern Oklahoma in May to work with UMC Disaster Response to rehabilitate homes damaged in 2015 floods. The dates are May 15th to 19th. If you are interested, or have questions, please let me know.

Your brother in Christ

Buster Hall



Make
Today
Great

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR SAND SPRINGS UMC

Monday, March 6

7:00pm-Boy Scouts-FLC

Tuesday, March 7

12:00pm-Lenten Devotion/Luncheon-SSUMC

5:45pm-NO Y4Y

6:00pm-Cub Scouts-FLC

7:00pm-Praise Team

7:00pm-Al-Anon-Upstairs

Wednesday, March 8

7:30am-Men's Breakfast-Crescent Café

6:30pm-The Awakening—Youth

7:00pm-Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 9

*7:00pm-Collins Karate-FLC

Friday, March 10

Evening-UMW setting up F. Hall

Saturday, March 11

9:30am-UMW Brunch & Unit Meeting-F. Hall

2:00 pm-*See article inside—Surprise Party-FLC

Sunday, March 12-Daylight Saving Time Begins!

8:30am-Contemporary Worship

9:45am-Communion Service

10:00am-Sunday School

11:00am-Traditional Worship

11:00am-*FLC in use

Monday, March 13

7:00pm-Boy Scouts-Family Life Center

Tuesday, March 14

12:00pm-Lent Devotion/Luncheon-St. Andrew Lutheran Church

5:45pm-NO Y4Y-Sanctuary

6:00pm-Cub Scouts-FLC

7:00pm-Praise Team Rehearsal

7:00pm-Al-Anon-Upstairs

Wednesday, March 15

7:30am-Men's Breakfast-Crescent Café

1:30pm-Mission to Stitch-Parlor

6:30pm-Youth

7:00pm-Chancel Choir

*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

