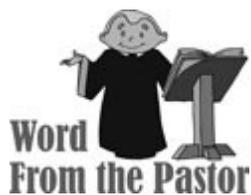


The Springs



Rev. Don Tabberer



"I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you."

(Ephesians 1:18, NIV)

Dear friends in Christ,

I have often heard it said that, "God accepts us just the way we are." This concept was the subject of much debate in the First Century church as the Jewish followers of Christ and the Gentile followers tried to find ways to become a community of faith. The debate had to do with whether or not it was necessary to change rituals, traditions, and behaviors that different cultures had grown up with. For example, "Was circumcision necessary for all men?"

There are some in our culture today who take this idea and turn it into a sign that all religions lead to the same God or that all faiths are basically the same. We hear about "universal salvation;" the idea that all people, no matter what they've done or what they've believed, will be saved. This "doctrine" even goes so far as to proclaim that Satan and his demons will one day be in heaven with God for all eternity. In other words, God places no requirements on his children; we can simply live in sin with no repentance and no remorse because God loves us and will welcome us into heaven no matter what. This may sound like a divine reprieve, but I don't think it accurately portrays God's intent. God does not require us to "earn" our salvation; he does require us to be **transformed** by it.

Bishop N.T. Wright says: "It is not the case, then, that God simply 'accepts us as we are'. He *invites* us as we are; but responding to that invitation always involves the complete transformation which is acted out in **repentance, forgiveness, baptism**, and receiving the **spirit**." It is true that God's will is for all people to be saved; yet, it is humanity's reality that not everyone follows God's will. We have a choice to accept or reject God's call upon our lives and the choice we make determines the path we follow and the destination we reach.

Oswald Chambers writes: "Remember what you are saved for – that the Son of God might be manifested in your mortal flesh. Bend the whole energy of your power to realize your election as a child of God; rise to the occasion every time." We cannot do anything to earn or deserve our salvation; but, we must do something to show evidence of it. We need to

seriously examine our individual lives and the life of our church to be sure that we are living out the hope that we are called to. If we are simply looking and living inwardly, then it is a lie to say that we are truly saved and sanctified by God. Without transformation, our claim to be followers of Christ is hollow and false.

I read this on Facebook last week: "***It's not our job to fix people, change people, or judge people. It's our job to love people. The rest is in God's hands.***"

I think that we are sometimes so busy trying to fix everyone else, that we forget to work on our own issues. It's like looking for a speck of sawdust in your friends' eye while paying no attention to the plank in your eye. This is not what God has called us to. We are called to love others, not judge others.

Chambers goes on to say: "May God not find the whine in us anymore, but may He find us full of spiritual pluck and athleticism, ready to face anything He brings." You see, the only purpose our life should have is to reflect the Son of God for all to see. When we do this, everything we need is taken care of and we stop trying to tell God what to do or how we want things to work out. We are not here to tell God what to do; we are here to submit ourselves to God's will so that the Spirit may work through us to bring the Light of hope to nourish others. My eldest son reflected the other day that God promised us our daily bread, not our daily filet mignon. It is important that we know the difference between our needs and our wants; this will allow us to recognize and accept God's true will for our lives. It is this discernment that will enlighten the eyes of our hearts to know the hope that God has called us to.

Let us all promise to stop whining and rise to every opportunity that God presents to us. Salvation is available to everyone, but **only those willing to change** will receive it. It is not up to us to point out the failures of others or how they must change. Who's in and who's out is not a choice we get to make. Leave it to God to decide.

"Physician, heal thyself,"
Pastor Don

NEEDED...

..Volunteers to weed eat at the Family Life Center around the sidewalks, parking lot, grassy area on the south side of the building, the fenced in areas of the air conditioners and sheds on both ends of the building.

Tim Katzung is doing the mowing but doesn't have time to do the weed eating. Volunteers are also needed to pick up trash along the streets on the east and south sides of our property before he mows on the weekends. See David Allen for further information.
THANK YOU!

Mission to stitch

Were branching out again. If you don't knit, crochet, or embroidery... How about quilting? Come see what Cynthia has planned!



Hey Kids-



We had 15 kids in Kingdom Kids and had a great time singing and moving with Miss Cathy. During Kidzone we made cards and gifts for our moms. We hope that you all had a wonderful time with your moms yesterday. Next Sunday, we will finish our lesson on "God gives us His Power." Have a good week and see you on Sunday. Miss Debbie & Miss Marty

**Next Sunday, May 21
9:45am**

PIE/DESSERT AUCTION

This is a **BIG** mission fund raiser for the youth. Please consider preparing and bringing either a pie or a dessert to be auctioned off. It is fun, it is exciting, it is delicious, and it is worth the big bucks!



Giving Statements

Friendly reminder to pick up your giving statements from the Narthex.

Project Transformation

June 12-15

9:00-12

Metropolitan Baptist Church
1228 W. Apache in Tulsa

**Vacation Bible School
July 16-20
6:15-8:30**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**Church Picnic
June 4**

**3:00pm to 6:00pm
Family Life Center**

More information coming soon!

Sunday Lists

Sunday Volunteers—May 21

Visitors Center & Coffee: CIA/Pathfinders
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: Sondra Allen & Dick Ford

Sunday Volunteers—May 28

Visitors Center & Coffee: CIA/Pathfinders
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: Bob Barnes & Jami Warkentin

In case you were wondering...

There are still UMW Blue Cookbooks available. Here is a yummy-sounding recipe that someone might want to try for the PIE AUCTION. It was submitted by our sweet Ms. Peggy Thomas. One of my favorite stories from Peggy was seeing the northern lights while walking home from Grace UMC as a child on Christmas Eve!

Peaches and Cream Pie

| | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1 sm. Pkg. vanilla pudding-Not Instant | |
| 3/4 c flour | 1-16oz can sliced peaches |
| 1 tsp. baking powder | 1-8oz pkg. Cream cheese |
| 1/2 tsp. salt | 1/2 c. sugar |
| 3 T. soft butter | 1 T. sugar, mixed with 1/2 |
| 1 egg | tsp cinnamon |
| 1/2 c. milk | |

Spray a 9-inch pie plate or baking dish with nonstick cooking spray. Mix first 7 ingredients and put into pie plate. Drain peaches, reserving syrup. Spread peaches over batter. Cream together cream cheese, 1/2 cup sugar, and 3 tablespoons reserved peach syrup. Spread over peaches. Sprinkle cinnamon-sugar mixture on top and bake at 350° for 30-35 minutes

Please Keep In Prayer



Please remember these in your prayers:

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

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.



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

| |
|-----------------|
| August 7 |
| August 21 |
| September 4? |
| September 18 |
| October 2 |
| October 16 |
| October 30 |
| November 13 |
| November 27 |
| December 11 |
| January 8, 2018 |



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

| |
|--------------------------|
| May 17-Seniors In Action |
| May 24-Priscilla Circle |
| May 31-Noah/Searchers |

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR SAND SPRINGS UMC

Monday, May 15

7:00pm-Boy Scouts-FLC

Tuesday, May 16

6:00pm-Cub Scouts-FLC

7:00pm-Praise Team Practice

7:00pm-Al-Anon-Upstairs

Wednesday, May 17

7:30am-Men's Breakfast-Crescent Café

1:30pm-Mission to Stitch-Parlor

5:45pm-NO Y4Y

6:30pm-The Awakening—Youth

7:00pm-Chancel Choir Practice

Thursday, May 18

6:30pm-Faith Circle meet at Ron's Hamburgers

*7:00pm-Collins Karate-FLC

Friday, May 19

No Activities

Saturday, May 20

11am-Sanctuary in use

Sunday, May 21

8:30am-Contemporary Worship

9:45am-Communion Service

9:45am-Youth Pie/Dessert Auction

10:00am-Sunday School

11:00am-Traditional Worship

1:30pm-Finance Committee Meeting

2:30pm-Church Council Meeting

Monday, May 22

5:30pm-4th Monday Community Dinner

7:00pm-Boy Scouts-Family Life Center

Tuesday, May 23

6:00pm-Cub Scouts-FLC

7:00pm-Praise Team Rehearsal

7:00pm-Al-Anon-Upstairs

7:00pm-Chancel Choir Rehearsal

*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



MEMORIAL FLOWERS
Fundraiser for SSUMC UMW &
1st Christian Church
5th & Main
First Christian Church
May 17-May 27
10am-6pm
Proceeds will benefit missions
and church activities

