

The Springs



Rev. Don Tabberer

May 21, 2014



"Pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

In the devotional book, *My Utmost for His Highest*, Oswald Chambers writes:

"If we think of prayer as the breath in our lungs and the blood from our hearts, we think rightly. The blood flows ceaselessly, and the breathing continues ceaselessly; we are not conscious of it, but it is always going on. We are not always conscious of Jesus keeping us in perfect joint with God, but if we are obeying Him, He always is. Prayer is not an exercise, it is the life." ("Think as Jesus Taught")

I have often thought about what it means to "pray without ceasing;" Mr. Chambers brings real clarity to this concept. Prayer is our lifeline to God and it should become part of us – all the time – just like breathing. Throughout our day we should be listening for God's leading and offering ourselves back to God. I believe that the ceaseless prayer we are called to is often a matter of keeping God in the forefront of our mind at all times, so that every choice we make and everything we do becomes an act of prayer because we allow God to influence every thought and every moment.

In seminary I remember taking a class in spirituality where we talked about various ways we connect to God through prayer. One of the techniques we discussed is called, "breath prayer." It is a simple concept that involves focusing completely on God and what you want to say in the moment. You begin by asking God to help you formulate your breath prayer. Then you speak your prayer as you breath in and out, listening for God. This style of prayer may not be for everyone. I bring it up to help us understand what it means to have God as the focus of your every breath. If you want to know more breath prayers, let me know; I would be happy to share more about this practice.

As I am writing this article, I am thinking about what God wants me to say to you. I believe this is an act of prayer. I am led to make a connection between the act of praying ceaselessly and the message we shared in worship this past Sunday. We talked about what it means to be "living stones" that allow themselves

to be built into God's spiritual house. We said that this meant we needed to clear away all those things that stand in the way of our relationship with Christ. In my mind, the only hope we have of clearing all the junk out of our lives is if we pray without ceasing and ask God to heal us, teach us, transform us, and forgive us.

As followers of Jesus we are called to live our lives differently from the rest of the culture. It is that idea of living in the culture, but not being like the culture. It is about showing people the difference between "Jesus people" and everyone else. It is about acting in the same way that Jesus did by loving, caring, nurturing, accepting, and welcoming others. It is a difficult calling that sets us against our human nature on a path leading us toward the image of God in which we are created.

There is no way we can accomplish this calling by ourselves. We need God's help every step of the way. The best way to get in touch with God's help is to pray and then pray some more and then kneel down and pray some more. We need to listen for God twice as much as we talk to God. We need to keep God as our focus all the time so that we are ready when choices are made, actions are pondered, and the world slaps us in the face. (Remember – turn the other cheek!)

One of the important things Oswald Chambers shares with us about prayer is that we must approach prayer **expecting** that God will answer. We must live our life expecting that Jesus is walking beside us, guiding us along the way. We must expect God's presence, healing, and forgiveness. We must expect that God will be faithful to God's promises and that we will not be left alone to perish.

So, let us "pray without ceasing" and expect that God will answer us with the best God has to offer. We can expect that God will certainly give us the best answer at the right time.

*In His Name,
Pastor Don*



SUMMER CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS

Summer Camp Season is just around the corner and we have exciting plans for our junior and senior high school students. Junior High students will attend **Disciple Camp June 4-8**. Senior High students will attend **Day Spring Camp July 10-14**. Several adult volunteers are also planning to attend camp to work with Mark and our students. It costs **\$250.00** to send a student to camp and we often have students who cannot afford to go without assistance. We provide some opportunities to raise money for the camp fund and we only require that each student pay half their fee; our habit has been to scholarship the other half. We are praying for your generosity again this year. As the camp fund raising activities come along, please support them by giving generously to such things as the Pie Auction and the Spaghetti Dinner. You may also be inspired to make a cash donation to the Camp Fund in order to help provide scholarships for students who would not otherwise be able to attend camp. Anything you can do to help will be appreciated as we make every effort to bring our students closer to Christ. To make a donation simply label it "CAMP FUND" and include it with your weekly offering or mail it into the church office. **Thank you!**

ATTENTION!!



Please take time to look at the Historical tables in the hallway. They will be on display through the last Sunday of May and then will be dismantled the last week of May. We will be displaying extra pictures on the table in front of the Parlor that you

may take if you like.

100 Years of Memories Video

April and May have been extremely busy months in the church so we have delayed the video production until June. The plan is to have groups of 8-10 people reminiscing together rather than individually. The hope is that when one of you shares a special memory, it will trigger a memory for someone else. The tentative plan is to have 30-minute time slots for each group (that may be adjusted as we get into the actual filming). Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex. The initial filming date will be Saturday, June 7 with a follow-up on June 14 if necessary. You are all invited to participate. Please call Karen Wilder at 918-241-3259 if questions.

SENIORS IN ACTION !

Please come join us for a potluck lunch and a great presentation by Brian Hunter ! We will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, May 28th, for lunch. The meat and drinks will be provided, so please bring a side dish, salad, or dessert.

Brian Hunter, who is a former youth director at The Church at Battlecreek, ran 1500 miles across Mongolia, to raise awareness and money for the orphans in Ulaanbaatar, the capital of that country. These children are totally abandoned, partly because of the political atmosphere there, and desperately need help of every kind. During a 2 month period last summer, he, with the help of his family and support team, accomplished this feat, after having been told it was physically impossible to do so. A love-offering will be taken to help with this effort.

Please spread the word - we hope to see you Wednesday, May 28th at 11:30 a.m.!

Questions? Please contact Max or Sharon at 918-246-9159.





PENTECOST PRAYER VIGIL
Saturday, June 7
7:00 AM - 7:00 PM

Someone's Praying, Lord.....

We've chosen as our theme, "*Revive Us Again!*" Some of us will remember the old hymn which is now found in the Cokesbury Hymnal. It's

such a catchy tune that I have found myself singing the chorus over and over again. It's a wonderful theme for this year's prayer vigil, as we pray that we will be open to God's spirit in a way that will bring a desire for each of us to be "revived" and renewed to become more effective disciples of Jesus Christ. We pray for a revived spirit in our church that will boldly move us forward into God's plan for our future. You will find our sign up sheet in the Narthex the next two Sundays. Sign up early to get the time that works best for you.

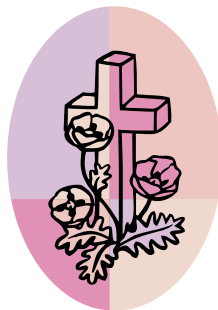
"Revive us again; fill each heart with Thy Love; May each soul be rekindled with fire from above. (Last verse)

Hallelujah! Thine the glory, Hallelujah! Amen; Halalelujah! Thine the glory - revive us again. (Chorus)
Sing with me and pray with me. Virginia

SSUMW/FCC Memorial Flower Sale!

Ladies, the flowers are finally for sale! Any help you can provide is very much appreciated in volunteering to work the sale. Call Trish House, 918-245-5508, or Carole Ashton, 918-724-2167 (daytime only). As last year, all sales will be held at the First Christian Church Fellowship Hall, beginning May 12th, Monday through Saturday, through May 26th (unless all flowers are sold prior to that!). We will need to have a shift schedule worked up along with the FCC ladies so if you have available time to offer, please call either Trish or Carole, or email

thouse77347@aol.com or caroleash-ton1@yahoo.com.



May 21-31 Calendar

Wednesday, May 21

7:30 a.m.-Men's Breakfast-Crescent Café
10:00 a.m.-Exercise to Music-FLC
6:00 p.m.-Chancel Ringers
6:30 p.m.-The Awakening
7:00 p.m.-Chancel Choir

Thursday, May 22

11 a.m.-Needlers-Parlor (Bring Sack Lunch)
1:00 p.m.-Ruth Esther Circle-F. Hall

Friday, May 23

No Activities

Saturday, May 24

No Activities

Sunday, May 25

8:30 a.m.-Modern Worship
11:00 a.m.-Classic Worship
9:45 a.m.-Communion
10:00 a.m.-Small Group Classes
1:00 p.m.-Youth Mentor Group
1:15 p.m.-Finance Committee Meeting

Monday, May 26-Offices Closed-Memorial Day

10:00 a.m.-Exercise to Music-FLC
7:00 p.m.-Boy Scouts-FLC

Tuesday, May 27

6:30 p.m.-Cub Scouts-FLC
7:00 p.m.-Praise Team
7:00 p.m.-All Anon-Upstairs

Wednesday, May 28

7:30 a.m.-Men's Breakfast-Crescent Café
10:00 a.m.-Exercise to Music-FLC
3:30 p.m.-Art Classes-F. Hall
6:00 p.m.-Chancel Ringers
6:30 p.m.-The Awakening-FLC
7:00 p.m.-Chancel Choir

Thursday, May 29-30

End of School Youth Lock In-FLC

Saturday, May 31

High School Reunion-FLC

No Tracey the week of May 27-30

Sunday Lists

Sunday Volunteers—May 25

Visitors Center & Coffee-TNT

Head Usher-11:00 a.m.-Eddy David

Young Disciples Lesson-8:30a.m.-Marty David

Young Disciples Lesson-11:00a.m.-Marty David

Child. Church-8:30 a.m.-Kingdom Kids

Child. Church-11:00 a.m.-Marty D. & Leesa H.

Counters-Sheree Buttler & Jami Warkentin

Sunday Volunteers—June 1

Visitors Center & Coffee-Searchers

Head Usher-11:00 a.m.-Eddy David

Young Disciples Lesson-8:30a.m.-Julie Ferguson

Young Disciples Lesson-11:00 a.m.-Julie Ferguson

Child. Church-8:30 a.m.-Kingdom Kids

Child. Church-11:00a.m.-Katherin R. & Julie F.

Counters-Janie Moore & Kent Warkentin

Please Keep In Prayer

Ruth Weaver, Donna Woodruff, Destinee Tackett, Sylvia Johnson, Martha Scudder, Virginia Vice, Marilyn Peil, Michael Bostwick & Kelsey (Bostwick family friend), Cathy Hula, Beverly Rousey, Charlotte Cain, Unspoken requests, Darryl Muse, Tristan Schwartz, Jim Wilson, Whitney Roberts, Nique Ropp, June Shreffler, Louise Read, Irene Stogsdill, Shanti (Mary McGowan's granddaughter), Owen Johnston, Joyce Stewart, Celia Thompson, SSUMC

Acknowledgements

Offices Closed

The Church Offices will be closed on Monday, May 26 to honor Memorial Day.

Tracey will be out of the office May 27-30th.

Newsletters 2014

May 19, June 2, June 16, June 30, July 14, July 28, August 11, August 25, September 8, September 22, October 6, October 20, November 3, November 17, December 1, December 15, December 29-To be determined

All articles are due the Monday of the Newsletter week by 11 a.m. Any articles submitted after 11 a.m. can be saved for the following newsletter per activity.

Thank You!!!

The United Methodist Women thank you all so much for the wonderful baked goods for the Herbal Affair. Figures are not in yet, but it was another **BIG** year! We can never do this event without all of you and your skills—and oh what skills you have!

Same time next year?!?



The Awakening

The Awakening exists to...

"Teach students to genuinely honor Christ through service, reaching out to those around them, and building up a community based on love for one another"

Upcoming Events

May 28th – The Awakening @ Sky Zone

May 29th – Lock In

June 4th – 8th – Disciple Camp

June 15th – 20th – Mission Trip to Duncan

Update

I pray that this update finds you well. Jenny and I are back from our honeymoon safely and we had a wonderful time.

This past week, a group of students went to Restore Hope Ministries and helped them by sorting through clothes and various other projects for them. The students that went had a great time and helped them tremendously.

This week we are continuing forward in our series, "A Life that Looks Different" where we will be discussing how the students go about impacting their world around them. The first week went very well and I look forward to seeing what God does in the next weeks.

The following week, we will be celebrating school getting out by going to the Sky Zone trampoline park in Tulsa on Wednesday and then having a lock in at the church on Thursday.

Disciple Camp is coming up and we are taking 3 students! Join me in praying for them that camp would be an incredible experience. Also, there is still time for your students to get signed up for our mission trip to Duncan, call or email me if you have any questions about that.

Your Fellow Servant,

Mark



KidZone

The children are so excited about our new lesson series, Weird Animals. On Sunday we made our weird animal hats. So if you see some strange hats around the building that is what that's about! The lesson series reminds us that Jesus loves us

even when we feel left out, different, when we don't understand, when we do wrong, and when we're afraid. Jesus loves us through it all! Invite your friends and neighbors. It's going to be a fun summer series!

It seems odd to think about fall already, but Ms. Cathy is busy working on a fall musical with the children about Jonah. That will be fun!

And VBS is just 2 months away! Can you believe it??!! Mark your calendars and start inviting your neighbors. The dates are July 20th-July 24th.

For those of you who don't know, SSUMC has a volunteer-based children's ministry. The people who do all the planning, teaching, VBS, young disciple lessons and children's church are all volunteers. It truly takes a village and we wouldn't have a children's ministry without this group of caring adults willing to give a lot of time to raising up the next generation in the church. We appreciate all our volunteers. This week we would especially like to thank Lisa and Caleb Massey. They have been called upon to substitute on Sunday morning a few times in recent weeks and they have done it so gladly. We appreciate them very much!

Please keep Ms. Marty's sister, Jane, and their family in your prayers as she has some health issues to work through.

See you Sunday!!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
FLC-Family Life Center

Wednesday, May 21

7:30 a.m.-Men's Breakfast—Crescent Café
10:00 a.m.-Exercise to Music
6:30 p.m.-The Awakening Youth-FLC
6:00 p.m.-Chancel Ringers
7:00 p.m.-Chancel Choir

Thursday, May 22

11:00 a.m.-Needlers-Parlor
1:00 p.m.-Ruth Esther Circle-F. Hall
5:30 p.m.-FLC in use

Friday, May 23

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Saturday, May 24

No Activities

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8:30 a.m.-Modern Worship; 11:00 a.m.-Classic Worship
10:00 a.m.-Sunday School
9:45 a.m.-Communion
1:00 p.m.-Youth Mentor Group
1:15 p.m.-Finance Committee Meeting

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10:00 a.m.-Exercise to Music-FLC
6:00 p.m.-Chancel Ringers
Youth to SkyZone Trampoline Park
7:00 p.m.-Chancel Choir

Thursday, May 29

Youth End of Year Lock-In-FLC

Friday, May 30

A.m.-Youth Lock In Clean Up
P.m.-High School Reunion Set-Up

Saturday, May 31

FLC in use today for a High School Reunion

Questions about SSUMC Women?

Priscilla: Trish House-918-245-5508
Ruth Esther: Barbara Fisher (Mrs. Connie)-918-241-9859
Faith: Rita Randall: 918-224-8482

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