



# The Springs

Rev. Don Tabberer

July 16, 2014



FROM THE PASTOR  
"Where Jesus is, there is life. There is abundant life, vigorous life, loved life, and eternal life. There is life before death. I find it deeply disturbing and unsettling whenever I think about how

**we have become accustomed to death – to the death of the soul, to death on the street, to death through violence – to death-before-life."** (Jürgen Moltmann, *The Passion for Life: A Messianic Lifestyle*, trans. M. Douglas Meeks, Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1977, 19.)

The first thing I notice about this quote is that it was first written more than thirty years ago and yet it seems to capture a stunning reality about our culture today. It does seem that we, as a people, have become far too accustomed to death in all its forms and that we have become numb and accepting of the things that often cause death in the world around us. I am not talking here about those "natural causes" that claim lives in the due course of illness and aging. What I am thinking about here are the more preventable causes of death...I'm sure you can think of one or two yourself.

The second thing I notice in this text is that "death" is not only being considered in the physical sense, but also in the spiritual realm – "the death of the soul." This is truly more frightening to me than all the other issues we might contemplate as part of this discussion. We can talk about drug abuse, alcohol abuse, child abuse, gun control, war, and any number of other issues that cause physical death. The death of a soul, however, conjures images of truly catastrophic separation from God for all eternity. This is an issue that should stimulate sincere conversation among thoughtful Christians throughout the world.

What are the causes of the death of the soul? What can we do to avoid this death? What is our role in preventing the disease and decay that contribute to soul death? Where does the church fit in this diagnosis and treatment plan? What can individual Christians do about it? These are all very hard questions, but I believe they are the kind of questions we need to be talking about as we try to re-discover what God has planned for our church.

The quote above is cited at the beginning of a wonderful book by Paul Nixon called, *I Refuse to Lead a Dying Church*. This is a challenging book that speaks prophetically to leaders in churches everywhere. You have heard me say more than once that, as we leave behind our first one hundred years as a church, we must look ahead to discern what God wants us to be in the next one hundred years. The mainline church is changing in America because it must change or die. If this congregation is to survive and thrive in the future as a beacon of Christ's Light in this com-

munity, we must be willing to change as we are led by God to change; we must be willing to set aside our personal feelings to reach new people with God's message. Church leadership must also change and make the commitment to refuse to lead a dying church. I have made that commitment and I am calling on all of you to stand in agreement with it.

We need to imagine what it would be like if we were starting a brand new church in Sand Springs right now. What would we do differently in order to grow and thrive in today's environment? Why would someone wake up on Sunday morning and decide to come to worship with us? Would our community even notice if suddenly we were not here? Does our community recognize who we are and what we contribute to Sand Springs?

What I am talking about here is a matter of life or death for the soul. Are we willing to accept that soul death is part of the natural order of things? Are we willing to let souls die for a lack of effort on our part? Or, are we committed to doing the hard work of seeking out those wounded souls and helping them find healing in Jesus Christ?

I recently read a book about the decline in churches in America and saw how, usually, decline goes largely unnoticed in the local church, rather like the frog placed in a pot of water who sits calmly soaking as the temperature gradually reaches a boiling point and the frog only notices just before he is too dead to do anything about it. The local church rarely sees its own decline until it is far too late to stop it; it usually takes someone from the outside to look in and point out where things are going and how to stem the tide. Our recent challenges have caused this kind of outside-in view of us to take place and we are trying to take advantage of this new perspective. From meetings with our District Superintendent to planned workshops with church-health experts, we are working to turn our ship toward God's course and we need everyone's help. Begin to engage this conversation and have prayerful thought about how we can better live into the mission God has called this church to. Be intentional about recognizing where your personal feelings and comfort are getting in the way of objective evaluation of the church. Pray that God will lead us where God wants us to go.

*Listening for Jesus,*  
**Pastor Don**



## FILLING THE BUCKET – DESIGNATED GIVING

At our May Town Hall Meeting we talked about the need to “fill the bucket” to replenish funds that were used for general budget funding. This was the pre-cursor to our austerity effort that

has been going on for the past couple months. (More about that later.) This is a reminder that we are asking our church to do “extra-mile-giving” over and above your regular tithing efforts. Please make a note on your contribution that you are donating to “fill the bucket” so that these extra funds can be deposited into the correct bank account. *Thanks!*

## HOW DO I GET MY NEWSLETTER?

This is the first newsletter that we are distributing almost exclusively by electronic means. There are a few printed copies available in the Church Lobby underneath the TV monitor. However, we want people to know that we will gladly mail copies to those people who are unable to receive an electronic newsletter. We simply need to know who they are. If you are reading this article then you probably have electronic access. We are asking for your help in identifying those people who do not. Help us find out who the folks are that still need to receive a paper copy. Call the church office and tell Tracey of folks you know who need this extra care.

ple for keepsakes, use them for ornaments, charms... they are lovely. Call Tracey in the office for further information.

## 100-Year Video is Complete!

The 100-year video is complete and I thank everyone who participated. If you would like to have a copy of the video, please let Don Cole or I know and we will get you one. Don can be reached at (918) 856-8254 and my number is (918) 241-3259 or you can catch up with us at church. Karen

## We Need Your Help... And it is FUN Help!



We need your family to build a robot out of things you already have at your home. Literally make him or her out of scratch. They are for display at the Workshop of Wonders VBS. Bring them by the church this week or bring them Sunday! Can't wait to see what you make!



▼ the back actually says...

**Loving God  
Loving Others**

## 100-Year Medallion

If you have not got your 100-year medallion, you can speak with Howard or Betty Smith. They are \$10 each and worth it! You can give them as gifts, keep a cou-

If you know of kids who wish to attend VBS, please call Tracey in the office to get them registered.



**It's Time!!!**

**Have you signed up the kids?**

**Sunday, July 20-Thursday, July 24**

**6:15 p.m.-8:30 p.m.**

**Ages Pre-K thru 6th Grade**

**Thursday's program will be at the**

**Family Life Center at 6:15 p.m.**

*If you have extra nuts and bolts and screws hanging around the house, drop them by the church for VBS. They have the coolest ideas.*

*But they will make great use of them!*

**AND**

*Don't forget to make a robot for display in the Narthex. Get the whole family involved! They must be made from things you have around the house.*

*Bring them by during office hours this week or bring them Sunday!*

## Sunday Lists

### Sunday Volunteers—July 20

Visitors Center & Coffee-CIA/Pathfinders  
 Head Usher-11:00 a.m.-Eddy David  
 Young Disciples Lesson-8:30a.m.-Jami Warkentin  
 Young Disciples Lesson-11:00a.m.-Jami Warkentin  
 Child. Church-8:30 a.m.-Kingdom Kids  
 Child. Church-11:00 a.m.-Jami W. & Kat Katzung  
 Counters-Betty or Howard Smith & Karen Wilder

### Sunday Volunteers—July 27

Visitors Center & Coffee-CIA/Pathfinders  
 Head Usher-11:00 a.m.-Eddy David  
 Young Disciples Lesson-8:30a.m.-Janet Parker  
 Young Disciples Lesson-11:00a.m.-Janet Parker  
 Child. Church-8:30 a.m.-Kingdom Kids  
 Child. Church-11:00 a.m.-Katherine R. & Julie F.  
 Counters-Sondra Bogert & Dick Ford

## Please Keep In Prayer

*Ruth Weaver, Donna Woodruff, Destinee Tackett, Sylvia Johnson, Martha Scudder, Virginia Vice, Marilyn Peil, Unspoken requests, Darryl Muse, Tristan Schwartz, Jim Wilson, Whitney Roberts, June Shreffler, Billie Schmidt, Irene Stogsdill, Owen Johnston, SSUMC, Lance Day, Susan Edwards, Ryan Bulmer, April Camp, Raymond Mason, Norma Coble, Emillio, Mrs. Frank Dudek, Kason Tabor, Maury Ward, Bill Gifford, Alexander Family, Beverly Rousey, Steve Silver, Marsha Smith*

## Acknowledgements



### *Needlers...*

*If you are looking for something to do this Summer, come join the Needlers. They knit, embroidery, crochet... If you enjoy any form of sewing, give them a try. They meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. Bring a sack lunch and enjoy! Next meeting is July 24th.*

### **Staff Vacation**

*Tracey will be out of the office this Friday, July 18 and Monday, July 21.*

*Alan is out July 15-July 29.*

*Mark is gone July 31 thru August 3*

### **Next Few Newsletters**

*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.





### The Awakening

*Mark will be back from camp Tuesday, July 15th.  
Watch and listen for future activities...*



**Don't Take  
a Vacation  
from Church**



### kidzone

VBS is here! Workshop of Wonders, our VBS for this year, starts SUNDAY and we are EXCITED! Dates are July 20-24. Invite your friends and neighbors. This is a wonderful outreach to the children in our community. We want as many children as

possible to attend!

We are stil in need of nuts, bolts and screws for VBS. If you have any of these around your house that you can spare please bring them to Caleb House when you can.

And our robot challenge is still open. Get together with a group, your children or grandchildren and make a robot using ONLY things you would normally throw away or recycle. Robots will be put on display during VBS. It's a great way to spend some family time with your kids. We can't wait to see everyone's creations. The children made robots in Sunday School the other day and they were so creative.

If you are free Friday night we will need people to help decorate. Please let Marty David or Debbie Schmidt know if you can volunteer or have questions about VBS.

See you Sunday!



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**  
**FLC-Family Life Center**

**Wednesday, July 16**

7:30 a.m.-Men's Breakfast—Crescent Café  
10:00 a.m.-Exercise to Music  
5:30 p.m.-The Awakening Youth to Greentree  
6:00 p.m.-NO Chancel Ringers  
7:00 p.m.-NO Chancel Choir

**Thursday, July 17**

7:00 p.m.-FLC in use

**Friday, July 18**

5:00 p.m.-FLC in use  
6:00 p.m.-FLC in use

**Saturday, July 19**

Youth Float Trip

**Sunday, July 20**

8:30 a.m.-Modern Worship; 11:00 a.m.-Classic Worship  
9:45 a.m.-Communion  
10:00 a.m.-Sunday School  
1:00 p.m.-Youth Mentor Group  
6:15 p.m.-Vacation Bible School

**Monday, July 21**

10:00 a.m.-Exercise to Music-FLC  
10:00 a.m.-Vision Disability Support Group-Sr. Citizen Center  
6:15 p.m.-Vacation Bible School  
7:00 p.m.-Boy Scouts-FLC

**Tuesday, July 22**

6:15 p.m.-Vacation Bible School  
6:30 p.m.-Cub Scouts-FLC  
7:00 p.m.-NO Praise Team  
7:00 p.m.-Al-Anon-Upstairs

**Wednesday, July 23**

6:15 p.m.-Vacation Bible School  
7:30 a.m.-Men's Breakfast-Crescent Café  
10:00 a.m.-Exercise to Music-FLC  
6:00 p.m.-NO Chancel Ringers  
6:30 p.m.-Youth-FLC  
7:00 p.m.-NO Chancel Choir

**Thursday, July 24**

10:00 a.m.-SIA Tour of Campbell Hotel then lunch  
11:00 a.m.-Needlers-bring a sack lunch  
6:15 p.m.-Vacation Bible School closing program

**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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Sand Springs UMC  
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Sand Springs, OK 74063  
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Family Life Center: 918-245-3725  
www.Sandspringsumc.org