

# The Springs



Rev. Don Tabberer

November 19, 2014



*"Let Israel's salvation come out of Zion! When God changes his people's circumstances for the better, Jacob will rejoice; Israel will celebrate!" (Psalm 53:6, CEB)*

The ancient Greek philosopher Heraclitus of Ephesus is believed to have said, *"There is nothing permanent except change."* It is a challenging concept for many of us, this thought of change. Yet, change is inevitable and we must adapt to it in spite of our discomfort and fear as we move into it. Change is part of God's plan, it always has been. After all, isn't that what we mean by "transformation" – to change from one thing into another? Maybe it is because change is such an integral part of our daily lives that we often dislike or resist change in the familiar institutions that we love, like church. We like to think of church as a respite from the hassles of daily living and we are comfortable with things as they are when we seek comfort here. Even so, change is part of our church life as well.

By now most of you are probably aware that our Youth Director, Mark Giovi, will be leaving us at the end of this month to accept a new opportunity at another church. This is a change for the better in Mark's ministry and we rejoice for him and Jenny as they move into the next leg of their journey. It is also a change that presents our church with the challenge of seeking out the best available candidate to carry on the important work of ministry to the youth of our community. We invite your prayers as we pursue this task. We are confident that God is guiding us in the process and that the right person will come to carry on the work that has been started here. Change does not mean disaster or collapse, it just means change. As uncomfortable as we are with change sometimes, we need to realize that many things in our church are changing. The **ARISE! Process** taught us that we have no choice but to change or watch as our church becomes irrelevant and ineffective in its mission and ministries. We have already begun to make significant changes in the way we

do the business of church and we will continue to adapt in these areas as we see what works best for us. Our 2015 Leadership Team is in place and ready to move forward to discover the best ways for us to "do church" in the coming year.

During our recent series "**Loving Large**" we talked about the importance of focusing our efforts on the two greatest commandments: *"Love God, Love People"* and how changing our focus can truly help us change the world in Jesus' name. We have challenged ourselves to examine everything we do through the lens of God's love as we determine how the church should allocate its resources. As we change, some things we do may expand while others may shrink or simply stop, depending on how our perspective changes.

During all of this it is vital that we keep open lines of communication with everyone in the church. We need your feedback to tell us if we are missing something or if someone is not getting the message. We need your help to make change successful so that nothing becomes *"change for change's sake."* We want everyone to have a voice in what is going on in our church and we want anyone to have the opportunity to participate according to their gifts and graces for ministry. Most of all, we want everyone to feel part of the family and not feel neglected during the process. We cannot be the church God wants us to be unless we all work together, pray together, and worship together.

I encourage each one of you to think and pray about what you believe God is calling us to. I pray that you will take the time to let me or one of your other leaders know what you are thinking, what ideas have come to you, and if you are feeling left out. Please let us know; don't let hurt feelings or missed opportunities fester into wounds beyond healing. We all know that change is difficult; let us work through the changes together in love and grace.

*Praying for God's guidance,  
Pastor Don*

## Please Keep In Prayer

Ruth Weaver, Martha Scudder, Virginia Vice, Billie Schmidt, Destinee Tackett, Darryl Muse, Tristan Schwartz, Irene Stogsdill, Owen Johnston, SSUMC, Mrs. Frank Dudek, Paul Waldschmidt, Barnard Family, Jim McCormick, Hal Cauthron, Tate Finley, Clare Caldwell, Shawn Cole, Nancy Grayson, John Johnson, Unspoken Requests

## Sunday Lists

### Sunday Volunteers—November 23

Visitors Center & Coffee-Discovery

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

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

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

Counters-Janie Moore & Kent Warkentin

### Sunday Volunteers—November 30

Visitors Center & Coffee-Discovery

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

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

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

Counters-Diana Pond & Jack Vest

## Acknowledgements



### OCC SHOE BOXES

Just a reminder that we need your shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child filled and at the church by NOVEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup>, so that we can get them ready for

shipment.

We have found out that all shoe boxes from Oklahoma will be going to the following countries: Peru, Guyana, Lithuania, Latvia, Macedonia, Ghana, Togo and Niger.

If you're interested in helping during collection week please give Amy Miller at call at 918-245-3076.

## Community Thanksgiving Service

Sponsored by the

Sand Springs Ministerial Alliance

November 23, 2014

6:00 p.m.

1st Assembly Church

501 N. Grant

Sand Springs

### SOMEONE'S PRAYING, LORD.....

"Give us this day our daily bread." How do I pray those words, Lord? I live in the context of abundance. I simply do not worry about where my next meal will come from. Perhaps I should pray on behalf of those who really and truly live from one meal to the next. And I do pray for them. Yet, action on their behalf is the real prayer for the poor -- prayer-in-action. (Taken from a book of Prayers from the Heart.)

Our church and community will be putting those prayers in action again this Thanksgiving as they prepare and deliver meals for hundreds in our area. Our children's ministry is once again sponsoring the Christmas Shoe Boxes filled with gifts for children around the world. Our missions team has given us opportunities to package supplies for Restore Hope the second Sunday of each month. We have volunteers who give one day a week at Restore Hope. And, more recently, some of our people have gone there during their lunch hour to fill grocery bags for those who are in need. They walk away feeling more blessed as they bless others.

During this Thanksgiving season, let us not only pray for God to "Bless Our Food," but let us be mindful of ways to help others, and find ways to help meet their needs. Have a safe and blessed Thanksgiving week. Virginia

### 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



## 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

November 19th – Talkback with Pastor Don

November 26th – No Wednesday Night

### Update

I hope you are doing well and staying warm. I hope you enjoyed the snow yesterday even though it did not stick around too long.

As many of you have heard, I have been offered and have accepted a job to be a Junior High Minister at another church. At the end of this month, I will be moving on to there.

Although my time here was shorter than we all would have liked, let me just say how much I have enjoyed working with the students. I feel like we have seen growth and have made some very good progress from where we were when I got here. Your students have been a huge blessing to Jenny and I, we are sad to have to go.

However, we also know that God is working out a plan that we do not know or understand. God will bring in the person that the students and this church need at the perfect time and I look forward to seeing what the next person does in the lives of the students. So, as sad as it may be, we can also have hope that God is working a plan that will ultimately be for the good of the students and the good of the church.

I will continue to be praying for this church and the ministry that God is doing. Although we are small, we have an amazing group of students God is raising up to do some big things. Jenny and I will miss you all.

Mark



## KidZone

Almost \$1,000 was raised during our Kidzone OCC Fundraiser. That made it possible for us to pack and ship almost 170 shoe boxes at our party on November 15<sup>th</sup>!! A big THANK YOU

to the ones who came out and helped get the fundraiser items ready and to those who helped pack shoe boxes on Saturday. We could not have done it without you! There are a few jars of the fantastic BBQ sauce available. If you are interested, see Debbie Schmidt or Marty David.

The children are working hard on their Kingdom Kids Christmas Program each Sunday from 9 until 9:45. If they come to Kingdom Kids they will get their name in a special drawing for a prize to be determined. The program is only 4 weeks away, so attendance is very important.

See you Sunday!

## Goody Bags!

The fall semester of 2014 is coming to an end which means Finals Week is very near! UMW will be providing the SSUMC college students with goody bags; these will be ready for pick-up on Sunday, November 23rd, outside the church office. If you have a college student please drop Tracey an email ([tginn@sandspringsumc.org](mailto:tginn@sandspringsumc.org)) or a phone call (918-245-5955) or email or call me, Trish House ([thouse77347@aol.com](mailto:thouse77347@aol.com), 918-245-5508) to be sure your student receives a goody bag of energy for cramming those late night hours! On December 5th, 9:00 am, UMW will be filling and delivering 100 goody bags to the TU Wesley Foundation. Donations will be welcome! As always, we stuff the bags with individual servings of such items as: instant cocoa, tea, cider; snack crackers, energy bars, cookies, candy, gum, individual popcorns, snack cakes, gummy fruit snacks, whatever! We have the individual bags of various chips already, courteous of SSUMC! If you would like to help provide, please bring to the church before or by 9:00 am, December 5th with a note attached saying UMW Goody Bags.

If you are available to help stuff the bags, you are needed! A wonderful opportunity for fellowship while we provide the Methodist students of the University of Tulsa with love and energy!

## College Student Goody Bags...

We need a list of all our college students-adults too! Please call Tracey at 918-245-5955.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### FLC-Family Life Center \* Un-sponsored Event

#### Wednesday, November 19

7:30 a.m.-Men's Breakfast—Crescent Café\*  
6:00 p.m.-Operation Christmas Child-FLC  
6:00 p.m.-Chancel Ringers  
6:30 p.m.-The Awakening-Youth-FLC  
7:00 p.m.-Chancel Choir

#### Thursday, November 20

1:00 p.m.-Ruth Esther Circle-F. Hall  
6:00 p.m.-Operation Christmas Child-FLC  
6:30 p.m.-FLC yard in use\*  
7:00 p.m.-Karate at FLC \*

#### Friday, November 21

6:00 p.m.-Operation Christmas Child-FLC

#### Saturday, November 22

7:00 a.m.-Helping Hands  
10:00 a.m.-Operation Christmas Child-FLC

#### Sunday, November 23

8:30 a.m.-Modern Worship; 11:00 a.m.-Classic Worship  
9:45 a.m.-Communion Service  
10:00 a.m.-Small Groups  
12:00 p.m.-Operation Christmas Child-FLC  
6:0 p.m.-Community Thanksgiving Service-1st Assembly of God

#### Monday, November 24

9:00 a.m.-Operation Christmas Child-FLC  
7:00 p.m.-Boy Scouts-FLC

#### Tuesday, November 25

FLC in use morning/early afternoon  
10:00 a.m.-Intercessory Prayer Group  
5:30 p.m.-FLC yard in use\*  
6:30 p.m.-Cub Scouts-FLC  
7:00 p.m.-Praise Team  
7:00 p.m.-Al-Anon-Upstairs

#### Wednesday, November 26-Offices Close Early

7:30 a.m.-Men's Breakfast-Crescent Café\*  
6:00 p.m.-Chancel Ringers  
Youth to FLC for Thanksgiving Dinner Delivery Program Prep  
7:00 p.m.-NO Chancel Choir

#### Thursday, November 27-Offices Closed

21st Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner Delivery Program

#### Reminder: Sunday, November 30

5:00 p.m.  
Uganda Kids Choir at SSUMC

#### **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](http://www.SandSpringsumc.org)**

#### **Don't Miss the Ugandan Kids Choir!**

The Ugandan Kids Choir, a group of ten talented Ugandan children, will be performing at Sand Springs UMC on November 30<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm. All ten children have been given hope through Childcare Worldwide's Sponsorship Program and now they are here to spread that hope to audiences all across the United States. The choir has performed nationwide at churches, schools, at Disneyland, on King 5 Television's "New Day Northwest," at Qwest Field, home of the Seattle Seahawks, and on the steps of the White House.

These children delight audiences with traditional African songs and dances. Megan DiRienzo, Curator of Education at the San Angelo Museum of Fine arts says, "All of you have amazing talents, beautiful voices and some serious dance skills! A performance like yours was a once in a lifetime opportunity. We fully support you on your mission to end child poverty!"

The Ugandan Kids Choir is a ministry of Childcare Worldwide, which has been dedicated to empowering children in the developing world since 1981. Through child sponsorship, Childcare Worldwide brings hope to children in need by providing them with an education that will set them up for future employment and break the cycle of poverty in their lives.

Following the concert we will all gather in the Fellowship Hall for a potluck supper. Bring your favorite dish to share spend a little time getting to know these amazing kids and their chaperones.

By coming to this event, you will enjoy traditional African song and dance, as well as help children in need all around the world. This is the final concert of their tour and promises to be a truly special event. Let's send them off from the United States with a big, enthusiastic crowd! So don't miss this unique and authentic performance by the children of the Ugandan Kids Choir. Please invite your friends, family, and neighbors to join us.