

The Springs



Rev. Don Tabberer



Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in the holy place? Those who have clean hands and pure hearts.
(Psalm 24)

Sunday, November 1st we celebrated All Saints Day. This is the day each year that we set aside to remember all those who have gone before us in the faith. Not only do we remember all the Christian people of every time and place who have gone to the Church Triumphant, but particularly we remember those from our own congregation who have passed since last November 1st. This year our list includes some wonderful saints of this church: **Virginia Vice, Eloise Patterson, Dean Hamner, and Don Cole**. We also remember **Irene Stogsdill**, Gerrie Holladay's mother; though not a member of our church, Irene attended here until her death this year. We remember them for the gifts they brought to us and for the lives they shared with us. We remember them as life-long church members, as new believers, and as those returned to Jesus. We remember them all as children of the Living God for whom we are truly thankful.

Each year when we come to this day on the church calendar I think of the rich history of the church as it has evolved over time since The Book of Acts first saw the followers of Christ begin to live-out the mission that Jesus modeled for them. History shows us a church that struggles to hold true to its message in the face of cultural influences and often violent persecution. We read stories throughout the New Testament and in other historical literature about a group of people who want desperately to be loyal to their God and yet encounter obstacles at every turn.

History also shows us a church that eventually divides within itself over issues that grow out of humanity's need to control circumstances and to interpret God's Word in self-serving ways. At different

times reformers try to bring the church back to Jesus and then we run astray and the cycle repeats and repeats. Maybe that's what draws me to this topic – the idea that history tends to repeat itself.

Remembering and celebrating the faithful in our congregation reminds us of the work of all the faithful throughout time. It makes me want to think that history will repeat through the actions of those of us who are still here and through our children and grandchildren for generations to come. The history that I would like to see repeated is the work of people like us in congregations around the world. Work that focuses completely on who Jesus was and who Jesus calls us to be. A history of loving God with all that we are and loving others as God loves. That is what we say we believe in. That is what this congregation has been working on for quite a while now. When we focus on Jesus and what He asks we cannot help but repeat the kind of work that those early Christians started in Jesus' name.

Repeating history is a good thing when we focus on repeating the right things. Those right things are taking care of each other; feeding hungry people; loving unlovable people; and praying with hurting people. Those right things include letting our faith inform every decision we make, whether in the voting booth or in our place of business.

It is said that repeating the same behavior while expecting different results is the definition of insanity. I would agree, particularly when we are talking about historically bad behavior. The inverse of this axiom is also true and valid when we apply it to good behavior: It is perfectly sane to **repeat good behavior** and **expect good results**. Let's keep repeating the good history passed down by generations of Christians and then, let us expect the church to grow.

Hoping for good history,
Pastor Don

Have You Chosen an Advent Study?

If your class hasn't chosen an Advent study yet, there are several available in the church library that you might like to consider:

- Christmas, the Good, the Bad and the Ugly by Richard B. Wilke
- Rejoicing in Hope by James A. Harnish
- What Can We Learn from the Christ Child? by James W. Moore
- Finding Bethlehem in the Midst of Bedlam by James W. Moore
- Christmas from the Backside by J. Ellsworth Kalas
- The Best Songs Come at Night by J. Ellsworth Kalas
- The Christmas People by J. Ellsworth Kalas
- Miracle of Christmas by James W. Moore.

Before you spend money on new curriculum, come by the library and see if any of these fit your need and then help yourself! We love the idea of recycling each others' curriculum!

Thanks,
Karen



Are You Ready? It's That Time of Year Again!!

November 14... 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Kids Shoebox Packing Party-FLC

November 16-Volunteers Needed-OPCC Drop Off-FLC
5:30-7:30 p.m.

November 17-Volunteers Needed-OPCC Drop Off-FLC
5:30-7:30 p.m.

November 18-Volunteers Needed-OPCC Drop Off-FLC
5:30-8:00 p.m.

November 19-Volunteers Needed-OPCC Drop Off-FLC
5:30-7:30 p.m.

November 20-Volunteers Needed-OPCC Drop Off-FLC
5:30 p.m.

November 21-Volunteers Needed-OPCC Drop Off-FLC
10 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

November 22-Volunteers Needed-OPCC Drop Off-FLC
12:00-4:00 p.m.

November 23-Volunteers Needed-OPCC Drop Off-FLC
9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

If you are available, please see Debbie or Marty to sign up or see the sign up sheet in the Narthex.



1,000 Thanksgiving Dinners Made To Go?!?

"So much to do; So little time."

It seems to be the theme every year at this time.

But it should be,

"Give Thanks With a Grateful Heart."

We have an opportunity that seems overwhelming and insurmountable. Impossible. We have probably over 1,000 meals to cook and deliver and we have less than one week to prepare the food and ONE DAY TO DELIVER THEM!!!

It is a community effort

and it is a community blessing!!

When it gets closer, we need people to bake turkeys. We need people to bake pies. LOTS of pies. And we need LOTS and LOTS of people to commit to delivering meals. More information with details to come as the week of the 23rd gets closer. However, you can start praying now and start recruiting friends, neighbors and family members to help deliver.

If you are having family coming in to town November 26th, use that as an excuse to get all of you involved in this community mission project. You will still have plenty of time to spend with family afterwards.



KidZone

Hey Kids! It's our busy season and we need your help. Come to the Caleb House this Saturday, November 7 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. We will be making fund raising items. We need everyone! THEN,

on Sunday, November 8, will be selling our items. We need you to be at church for worship and to help us Sell! Sell! Sell!

The following Saturday, November 14th we will be packing Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes at the Family Life Center from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Please come and help. It is so much fun and you get to participate in a huge mission project!

Ms. Cathy is working on your Christmas Program which will be performed on Sunday, December 13th. She needs ALL of you to pull this off. Please be sure you are here every Sunday.

Once again, SSUMC will serve as a collection center in our area for Operation Christmas Child. This will take place at the Family Life Center beginning Monday, November 16th and run through Monday, November 23. There will be a sign up sheet in the narthex to help at the FLC during collection week. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

See You Sunday—Marty, Debbie, & Cathy



Hey Youth!

Hello from Tristan Holt! I hope you all had a safe and wonderful Halloween! This weekend I decided to take Sunday off and enjoy it with friends and family out of town. It was a relaxing birthday weekend and can't

believe that I am twenty-five. Even though I look like I am barely out of high school. Unfortunately I had to attend the funeral of the senior pastor of my home church Broken Arrow Nazarene. On Sunday October 25 he unexpectedly had a heart attack while on vaca-

tion. He had been at the church for nineteen months and in those short nineteen months he showed the light of Jesus to every member at that church. It was an extremely difficult time for that church and I ask that you keep them in your prayers. The Christian church is splintered into many denominations and differing beliefs ranging from the mundane to more controversial topics. Although at times these beliefs cause us to disagree or even at times walk away from a certain denomination, in these times we must remember that we are all one body of Christ. When we let our differences take us away from the Gospel there becomes a problem. We can respectfully disagree with our brothers and sisters out of love. We are all here for one common purpose and that is to bring people out of the darkness and bondage that brings them down and show them the love of Christ. Every Sunday morning before Ken Pell would finish his sermon he would leave the church with this. "I love you all go and be a light to the world and preach the Gospel." I leave you all with that sentence. I love you all.



UMW News

November Circle Meetings:

Faith Circle – No meeting this month

Priscilla Circle – No meeting this month.

Ruth Esther Circle—November 19th at 1:00. p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Note they are meeting one week early. Wava Burt has the devotion and Louise Read has the program. JoAnn Nelson has refreshments.

Toole Tyme at Cookson is Nov. 13-15. Registration forms are in the UMW Mailbox in the Office. Instructions on how to make the mats for the homeless are also in the mailbox.. There are bags of plastic bags in the closet in the Library to make into the Parn (plastic yarn). There are also prepared balls of Parn in the closet. Ask Tracy to let you in.

UMW Executive Meeting is Nov. 5 at 5:30 in the CIA/Pathfinders Classroom.

World Thank Offering is due in November.

Call the Reeves if you can cook a turkey or bake some pies for the Community Thanksgiving Dinner.

Happy Thanksgiving!



Is church high on your list?
(NOTE: Bishop Hayes is calling each of us to action in the Oklahoma Conference. This is the second in a five-part series, which began with *Closed on Sunday?* published in our last newsletter.)

When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him. (Luke 5:11)

By BISHOP ROBERT HAYES JR.

In a recent meeting of Conference leaders, I was troubled to learn that still only one-third of our churches are growing in members. That means two-thirds are either stagnant or declining. These are statistics that keep your bishop pacing the floor at night, asking myself: What are we doing wrong?

Much conversation these days grieves the falling membership of major denominations, including our United Methodist Church. Since the mid-1960s the number of people who worship in our churches has been steadily decreasing, with a sharp drop in the number of people who actually join. I'll be first to admit there is no one solution for this dilemma.

But I do believe there are a few answers within our reach that we can employ if we are going to change the trajectory of our course.

Today I offer these ideas, in combination with my last article, as conversation-starters for your church.

I begin with this basic premise:

To make a disciple, you must be a disciple!

All too often we want to place the weight of disciple-making on the pastor or someone who has the unenviable title of "chair of evangelism." Truthfully, all of us are in the disciple-making business.

The question becomes: Are we really disciples ourselves?

The vast majority of worshippers feel that attending church on Sunday morning meets the requirements for a devoted follower of Christ. Furthermore, many believe that being present at church once or maybe twice a month fulfills all obligations of being "a member in good standing."

It requires more than that!

I want to call attention to this. Within every congregation there are a faithful few disciples who on every Sunday open the church, turn on the lights and adjust the temperature control, make the coffee and juice, and teach Sunday School. They also are present at Bible studies, choir rehearsals, workdays, and in a host of other ways throughout the week. And if there is a special need, you can always call on them.

What separates them from so many others? The answer is straightforward:

They have consciously made the church a priority in their lives, and everything else is secondary.

Now, you may argue that you just don't have that kind of time to devote to the church, and that may be true. But you should be fully aware that you become a disciple of whatever demands the most of your time and energy! Devotion to your family—I encourage that. But remember that you are part of Christ's family, too; the church is his Bride.

Shouldn't your devotion to Christ and his church rank somewhere near the top of your list?

When members (disciples) are received into the church, they are asked this question: *Will you be loyal to The United Methodist Church, and uphold it by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness?"*

Those words represent a vow—a covenant, a promise, a commitment. If we don't honor that pledge we make, if we don't live out those words, are we truly disciples?

In the pledge, there are no loopholes that give us permission to place the church last in our priorities.

Disciples are eager to grow in faith, willing to give themselves unashamedly to the cause of Christ and the work of the church. Discipleship is a way of life, not a practice we pick up and put down on Sunday mornings. It involves the whole person, focused and devoted to transforming self, family, community and, yes, a hurting and needy world!

In this touching verse found in Luke's Gospel, it is clear what was important to those first disciples. "When they had brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed him."

We live in a time when very few are willing to leave the comfort of their boats—the boats of convenience, ease, and misguided loyalties. They make mountains of excuses.

I appeal to you today to look very closely at how you live out your discipleship. How much are you willing to leave behind to follow Christ? Everything—or just a little?

Go and ask those faithful few who keep the church alive what reward they get for their loyalty. It's likely they won't be able to put that into words, so look to the evidence of their lives. The reward is priceless! You see, they left their boats a long time ago!

Sunday Lists

Sunday Volunteers—November 8

Visitors Center & Coffee-Discovery Class

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

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

Teaching: Jami Warkentin

Child. Church-11:00 a.m.-Kat Katzung

Counters-Janie Moore & Kent Warkentin

Sunday Volunteers—November 15

Visitors Center & Coffee-Discovery Class

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

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

Teaching: Jami Warkentin

Child. Church-11:00 a.m.-Debbie Schmidt

Counters-Diana Pond & Jack Vest

Youth Lunch

November 11-Faith Circle-Rita Randall

November 18-TNT-Kay Woodward

November 25-No Dinner-Youth help with Thanksgiving

December 2-Ruth Esther circle

December 9-Seniors In Action

December 16-Priscilla Circle

Acknowledgements

Thank You Karen Wilder!!

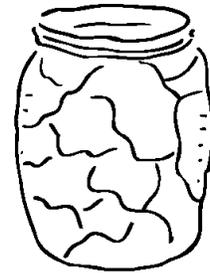
After many years of teaching the Crossroads Sunday School Class, the class is disbanding. It takes so much dedication and we are thankful to Karen for teaching this class and being an example of what leadership looks like. Thanks again, Karen!

Please Keep In Prayer



Billie Schmidt, Bob & Cathy Hula, BW Proft, Clare Caldwell, Darryl Muse, Jack Brown, Magen Stockard, Martha Scudder, Esther Williams, Owen Johnston, Paul Waldschmidt, Ruth Weaver, Tristan Schwartz, Delbert Sloan, Jim McCormick, Darin Grayson, Chris Bordelon, Mark, Aaron, Ralph Rand, SSUMC, Unspoken Requests

Make a Stained-Glass Candle



You will need:

- an empty glass jar
- colored tissue paper
- white glue
- paint brush
- votive candle

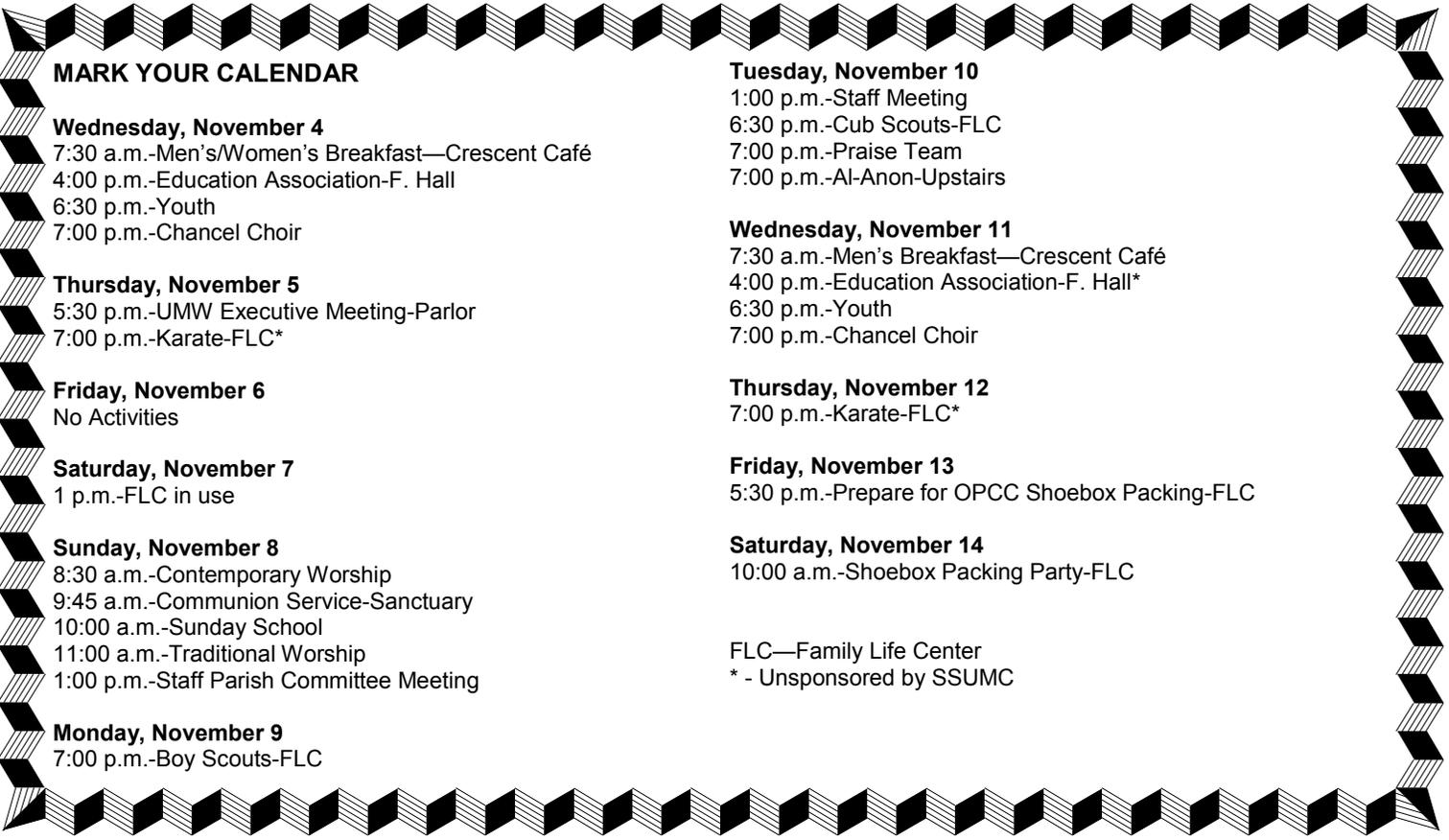


How to make it:

- Cut the tissue into small pieces.
- Paint the jar with glue.
- Arrange the pieces on the jar on the wet glue. Do not leave any empty spaces.
- Paint over the tissue with more glue. Let dry.

Place candle inside.





MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Wednesday, November 4

7:30 a.m.-Men's/Women's Breakfast—Crescent Café
4:00 p.m.-Education Association-F. Hall
6:30 p.m.-Youth
7:00 p.m.-Chancel Choir

Thursday, November 5

5:30 p.m.-UMW Executive Meeting-Parlor
7:00 p.m.-Karate-FLC*

Friday, November 6

No Activities

Saturday, November 7

1 p.m.-FLC in use

Sunday, November 8

8:30 a.m.-Contemporary Worship
9:45 a.m.-Communion Service-Sanctuary
10:00 a.m.-Sunday School
11:00 a.m.-Traditional Worship
1:00 p.m.-Staff Parish Committee Meeting

Monday, November 9

7:00 p.m.-Boy Scouts-FLC

Tuesday, November 10

1:00 p.m.-Staff Meeting
6:30 p.m.-Cub Scouts-FLC
7:00 p.m.-Praise Team
7:00 p.m.-AI-Anon-Upstairs

Wednesday, November 11

7:30 a.m.-Men's Breakfast—Crescent Café
4:00 p.m.-Education Association-F. Hall*
6:30 p.m.-Youth
7:00 p.m.-Chancel Choir

Thursday, November 12

7:00 p.m.-Karate-FLC*

Friday, November 13

5:30 p.m.-Prepare for OPCC Shoebox Packing-FLC

Saturday, November 14

10:00 a.m.-Shoebox Packing Party-FLC

FLC—Family Life Center

* - Unsponsored by SSUMC

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