

# The Springs



Rev. Don Tabberer

October 22, 2014



*"He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end."*  
(Ecclesiastes 3:11)

Here the writer of Ecclesiastes first tells us that God has made everything for its own beauty in its own particular time. We then hear that, while God's eternal vision is set deep within us, we cannot begin to comprehend what God has done, is doing, or will do. We hear hope and frustrated hope in the same short verse. The more we know, the more we realize how much we do not know.

I recently read a book by noted scholar and theologian, Rev. Dr. N.T. Wright. The book is called **SIMPLY CHRISTIAN**; in it we find a way of looking at our faith, why we hold to it, and how we may practice it in a complex world. One question Dr. Wright poses is this: *"If the earth is full of God's glory, why is it also so full of pain and anguish and screaming and despair?"* Is not that a question we have all asked at one time or another? Do we not wonder how our world can wallow in its own misery while believing in a God who created us, saved us, loves us, and guides us? If God really cares about us then why does God not take care of the things that bother us? **Where's the love?**

From this question we can begin a study of God's relationship with the world God created and the beings placed here. We can, if we are willing, try to understand the Scriptures as they tell us a complex story about God; a story that is centered on God, not on humanity. It is not an easy story to understand because it is filled with images that no longer seem relevant in our modern culture. There seem to be conflicting messages and obscure references everywhere we turn. Dr. Wright talks about this issue as if God were a master composer whose masterpiece already exists. Right at this moment, the instruments and the players are not yet ready to perform it. When they are ready, this great manuscript – the world with all its beauty and puzzle – will turn out to be part of the score as well. Whatever

deficiencies we have will be made right and the dissonance we sense will become perfect harmony that we never dreamed of. We simply need to keep reading and practicing the score, waiting for the conductor's baton. It is a complex undertaking.

*"We honor and celebrate our complexity and our simplicity,"* Dr. Wright says, *"by continually doing five things. We tell stories. We act out rituals. We create beauty. We work in communities. We think our beliefs."* That is "the church" – the place where we gather to do these five things, and more, as we try together to navigate the complex manuscript God has set down for us. We must do these things together to gain strength from one another for the journey and to share with one another as we learn and grow. It is simply too daunting a task to undertake by yourself; we need our Christian community.

What is encouraging for me is that, in the midst of this seemingly complex undertaking of understanding who God is and who we are, there is a simple set of commands from Jesus. "Love God with all you heart, will all your soul, and with all your strength. Love your neighbor as you love yourself." These two commands sum up all the law and the prophets into simple sentences that each one of us can and should have in our memory. Love God. Love People. It's just that simple.

As we move forward from the recent **ARISE! Workshop**, we have challenged ourselves to think about who we are as a church and who God wants us to become. This means re-thinking our mission focus and being crystal clear about what God is calling us to do. I believe that what God expects from us is simple; how we choose to live up to that expectation depends on us – **will we make it difficult?**

*Praying for God's leading,  
Pastor Don*



Trunk or Treat  
Friday, October 31  
6 p.m.-8 p.m.  
4th & Main Parking Lot

Decorate your trunk; Decorate your truck;  
Decorate your tractor; Decorate a set of  
wheels and head out to the Church parking lot for an evening of fun. You  
are crating a safe place for local kids to trick or treat and you will feel  
blessed for doing it! So see you there!

You can sign up in the Narthex to bring a "trunk" and/or to donate  
candy. We always needs lots of treats for this event so we don't chance  
running out! We also always need lots of decorated vehicles! You always  
make this a huge success... let's continue that streak this year!



### JUST A REMINDER...

Saturday, November 1, remember to set your  
clocks back one hour before you go to bed.  
Daylight Savings Time ends November 2nd.



### NEW OFFICE HOURS

We are now closed on  
Friday. Our office  
hours are 8 a.m. to  
4:30 p.m., Monday  
through Thursday.  
Closed 12 p.m. to 1  
p.m.

*Please Keep In Prayer*

*Sunday Lists*

*Acknowledgements*

*Ruth Weaver, Martha Scudder, Virginia Vice, Billie Schmidt, Des-  
tinee Tackett, Darryl Muse, Tristan Schwartz, Irene Stogsdill,  
Own Johnston, SSUMC, Lance Day, Mrs. Frank Dudek, Bob  
McFall, Paul Waldschmidt, Barnard Family, Jim McCormick, Hal  
Cauthron, Tate, Finley, Clare Caldwell, Shawn Cole,  
Unspoken Requests*

### Sunday Volunteers—October 26

Visitors Center & Coffee-Harmony

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

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

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

Counters-Diana Pond & Jack Vest

### Sunday Volunteers—November 2

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.-Kristen & Julia Henry

Counters-Betty or Howard Smith & Karen Wilder

### Tulsa Parkinson Conference

Saturday, November 1, 2014

Jubilee Center at Boston Avenue Methodist Church  
1301 S. Boston Ave.-Tulsa

**Register and Exhibits** open at 9 a.m.

**Program** is 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**To Register:** 918-877-2704

**Speakers:** Service Professionals and Dr. Kevin Klos  
who is an acclaimed movement disorder specialist  
and has developed the first dedicated comprehen-  
sive clinic for diagnosis and treatment.



## 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

October 25th – Playground Build

October 31st – Trunk or Treat

November 26th – No Wednesday Night

## Update

I hope that you are doing well and enjoying the fall weather and having a great week!

This coming Saturday, we will be going to Wesley Chapel UMC in North Tulsa to help build a playground for the kids in North Tulsa to play on. This is an incredible opportunity to do some real good in the community of Tulsa and create an environment that will potentially help minister to a lot of kids and families. This is a massive project and it has been requested that we bring some volunteer labor to help with it. Your students are more than welcome to come to this event. It is occurring this Saturday.

The next event coming up is Trunk or Treat on October 31st. It is happening from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the church (4th and Main). We would love your students to come out and help with this. And if you want to decorate your trunk and come hand out candy, feel free to do so.

And just so you all know, we will not be having Wednesday night activities on November 26th because that is the day before Thanksgiving, but normal Wednesday nights will resume the following week.

Your Fellow Servant,  
Mark



## KidZone

Mark your calendars! On November 8<sup>th</sup> we will be making items for the OCC fundraiser from 10am-12pm. November 9<sup>th</sup> is the fundraiser in the Narthex. We will pack OCC shoe boxes at the FLC on November 15<sup>th</sup> from 9am-12pm. Lunch will be provided. Everyone is welcome to join us! It's a lot of fun and a great inter-generational way to be in ministry together.

We are beginning to work on our Christmas musical during Kingdom Kids. Good attendance is helpful so the children are prepared for their parts.

See you Sunday!

## Operation Christmas Child



It's almost time! Red and green shoe boxes will be showing out on November 2! Operation Christmas Child provides a shoe box full of gifts and hygiene items to children in third

world countries. Boxes are packed by families and individuals at SSUMC and then shipped by Samaritan's Purse overseas. The children who receive the boxes are then enrolled in Bible clubs where learn about the saving grace of Jesus Christ. And they bring their friends, too!

We will need packed shoe boxes back at church in time for National Collection Week, November 17- November 24. Our church serves as a drop off location for the Sand Spring/Sapulpa/Mannford area.

If you have empty shoe boxes at home collecting dust we could use those, too. Drop them off in Caleb House and we will put them to good use. If you have questions about the shoe boxes, Operation Christmas Child, or would like to volunteer during National Collection Week, please contact Amy Miller at 918-245-3076 or

[spymama6@gmail.com](mailto:spymama6@gmail.com).

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

**Wednesday, October 22**

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

**Thursday, October 23**

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

**Friday, October 24**

No Activities

**Saturday, October 25**

7:00 a.m.-Helping Hands

**Sunday, October 26**

8:30 a.m.-Modern Worship; 11:00 a.m.-Classic Worship  
 9:45 a.m.-Communion Service  
 10:00 a.m.-Small Groups  
 5:00 p.m.-Annual Charge Conference

**Monday, October 27**

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

**Tuesday, October 28**

10:00 a.m.-Intercessory Prayer Group  
 5:30 p.m.-FLC yard in use  
 6:30 p.m.-Girl Scout Leader Meeting-F. Hall  
 6:30 p.m.-Cub Scouts-FLC  
 7:00 p.m.-Priscilla Circle-Home of Kristen  
 7:00 p.m.-Praise Team  
 7:00 p.m.-Al-Anon-Upstairs

**Wednesday, October 29**

7:30 a.m.-Men's Breakfast-Crescent Café  
 6:00 p.m.-Chancel Ringers  
 6:30 p.m.-Youth-FLC  
 7:00 p.m.-Chancel Choir

**Thursday, October 30**

6:30 p.m.-FLC yard in use  
 7:00 p.m.-Karate at FLC \*

**Friday, October 31**

**6-8 p.m.-Trunk or Treat!**

**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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