

The Springs



Rev. Don Tabberer

September 24, 2014



"The believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the community, to their shared meals, and to their prayers. A sense of awe came over everyone. God performed many wonders and signs through the apostles."

(Acts 2:42-43)

Why do we come to church? This may seem like a silly question coming from the pastor, but it is a question I have been thinking about a lot lately. We spend a lot of time talking about what God calls us to **do** – our mission, the ministries of the church – lots of "doing". We talk about reaching out; we encourage evangelism; we ask everyone to focus on reaching others and not so much on ourselves. So I wonder: when do we get to nurture **our** spirits? When do we let God work in **us**? Church may not be all about us, but there needs to be **something** here for us, doesn't there? How do we find the **balance**?

I still believe that it is important for us to try our best to understand what God expects of us and how our "doing" fulfills the call on our lives. But I fear we might get so busy doing God's work that we may lose sight of the God who calls us to work and provides us with all we need to do the work. Sometimes, we need to make church about us – at least a little bit about us. Otherwise, we get disconnected from the source of our spiritual power and the food for our hungry souls. There **must** be a balance.

The Book of Acts describes the beginning of the early church. These were the people closest to Jesus who were trying to keep his mission alive. They were following his example: preaching, teaching, and healing in Jesus' name. They gathered in community to share meals, to pray, and to encourage one another. They found ways to both do the work and take care of each other. They didn't always get it right, but they tried hard to find balance in their Christian walk. I think there is much for us to learn here.

So let's go back to the original question: "Why do we come to church?" The most obvious answer is to glorify God with our worship and praise. That really is the whole point of coming to church on Sunday mornings – to worship God, which makes it all about God, right? Yes, but...our time spent in worship is also about us giving thanks, coming before God in our weakness, and seeking to bathe in God's presence. It is a two-way experience for us and God.

We come to church at other times during the week as well. There are committee meetings and mission projects, Bible studies and United Methodist Women. Those sound an awful like "doing" don't they? At first glance, they don't seem to be about us at all. Maybe we need to look again. Our service, in whatever form it takes, is really a response to God's love for us. We are filled with God's grace through the things we do in God's name. We see ourselves differently when we are involved in God's work. And, I believe, our batteries are re-charged as we experience God's presence through the people we encounter during these times together.

"Why do we come to church?" I think we come here because we find God here. God is with us in worship as we sing and pray and listen for God's word. God is present if we invite God to join us in our meetings and studies. God is present in the faces of people we meet during a mission project. God is present when we encourage a friend in church or pray for a fellow member in need. God is even present, especially present, when we humbly seek God in prayer for ourselves. "Ask...seek...knock..." Jesus said.

I notice that I sometimes focus on the mission so much that I miss the Master. I don't mean for that to happen, but it does. We need to be intentional about setting aside time every week, even every day, to be as close to God as possible. We need to step away from the work and make some time for our relationship with God to be about us and God – together. We should admit that we need God much more than God needs us. I think what I'm really saying is that when our lives are truly "all about God," then we are the great beneficiary.

When I talk about the work of the church and say that it is not about us, what I mean is that everything we do should point to God. Even when we need a little of the attention, it still points to God. Everyone in our church is important to God and to this congregation. All of us have a voice; all of us have a need; and all of us are part of this community that stands in awe before God. We gather to share a meal; to pray for one another; to learn together what God is saying to us; and to be devoted to the God whose arms are big enough and strong enough to embrace us all. We will not always get it right, but we will continue to try hard to find balance in our Christian walk together.

*Seeking balance,
Pastor Don*

ARISE – OCTOBER 12TH

Your leadership team has identified a need to re-focus our church on the mission God is calling us to. It is vital that we consider the best ways to allocate our resources to fulfill this mission. In addition, we are once again looking seriously at the relocation of the church to our south side property. As we consider the future of our church we are looking to a new process to help us identify and implement the changes that need to be made. This process is called **ARISE**. Please save the date: **Sunday, October 12th** for this important event. More information will be coming to you soon, but we are asking that you plan to be with us for the entire day that Sunday. We will start the day at 9:30AM. We will worship together and share a pot luck lunch together and then we will work together to engage the Arise process. The day will be led by Mike Wiley, from the Oklahoma United Methodist Foundation. Please plan to join us.

UMW Library News

Efforts are being made to purge our shelves of books too old to qualify for the current reading program certificate. The primary way you can help is to return books checked out as soon as possible after reading them. No firm decision has been made concerning the disposition of these books. Further information will be posted in the near future.

There is much to pray for. Please consider joining us on Tuesdays at 10:00, in the Church Parlor, for meditation and prayer. I trust that we will not only see our lives change, but we will see amazing things happening as we come together to worship and to serve.

Virginia



What?: CROP Hunger Walk

When?: Sunday, September 28th, 2014 -- registration 1:00-1:45 p.m. and the walk starts at 2:00 p.m.

Where?: Boston Avenue United Methodist Church
1301 S. Boston

Why?: To raise awareness of the problem of hunger around the world and to raise funds to help alleviate that problem.

How long?: You pick your route either 2 miles or 4 miles.

Interesting facts

- * 840 million people in the world are malnourished.
- * More than 153 million of them are under the age of 5.
- * 6 million children under the age of 5 die every year as a result of hunger.
- * Last year \$13 million was raised at CROP walks held throughout the U.S. to fight hunger and poverty worldwide.

The annual Tulsa CROP hunger walk is earlier than usual this year. I let time get away from me thinking it was the first Sunday in October as in the past. But, not so!

If you can come walk Sunday and raise money for this very worthy cause, it would be great! If you can't make it to the walk, you can be a spirit walker and just help raise funds or find a walker and sponsor them.

If you'd like to sign up for our team and raise money online or if you'd like to support our team as a sponsor, please go to the site below, contact Jami Warkentin, or contact a walker. If you go to the website, there will be boxes to click saying "Join Team" or "Donate Now". Once you click those, it will step you through the process. It is very user friendly!

Thank you for supporting our team in the fight against hunger!

<http://hunger.cwsglobal.org/goto/SandSpringsUMC>

Save the Date TRUNK or Treat



TRUNK or Treat is Friday,
October 31, 6PM-8PM, IN OUR CHURCH PARKING LOT at
4TH & MAIN. We need TRUNKS and candy. Lots and
LOTS OF candy! PLEASE JOIN US AS WE OFFER FAMILIES IN
THE COMMUNITY a SAFE PLACE to TRICK or treat. SIGN UP
SHEETS and candy DONATION BOXES WILL be IN THE nar-
thex THIS SUNDAY.

SOMEONE'S PRAYING, LORD.....

This Sunday, we are celebrating our children and youth. School is underway and everyone is finding their place in their new environment. We pray for our teachers and our schools. We pray for safety and a good atmosphere for learning. We pray that our young people will know what the word "Respect" means and will show that respect to everyone they encounter - friend or not. We pray for parents and guardians that they will be able to show love and a caring spirit, not only for their own children, but for others. Mostly, we pray that our families will know the love of God and grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ. We pray that our churches will be diligent in reaching out to families, meeting needs where needed - both spiritual and physical.

As we celebrate Children's Sabbath, you will again have an opportunity to take the name of one of our children, youth or leaders, and pray each day for them. You may not know the name of the person you take, but God does. And, if you get to know them, that is an added blessing. We look forward to lifting our young people and their leaders up in prayer during this next year.

TUESDAY MORNING PRAYERS You are invited to join a prayer group that meets each Tuesday at 10:00 a.m., in the Church Parlor. It's a very special time to get together for a quiet meditation while offering prayers for our church and those in need. You don't have to commit to every Tuesday - just

come when you can. We'd love to have you. Also, if your schedule does not permit coming to the church, please consider saying a little prayer at that time wherever you are. God hears and answers prayer! We Believe. Virginia

UMW Circle Meetings

Priscilla Circle
September 23, 7:00 p.m.
Home of Sharon Schuermann

Ruth Esther Circle
September 25, 1:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

Faith Circle
September 25, 7:00 p.m.
Parlor

Children's Sabbath



This Sunday is Children's Sabbath. The children will be leading us in worship during both services. They will present a musical about Jonah. Third graders will also be receiving Bibles.

Please make plans to join us in worship on Sunday and let the children know that our congregation loves and supports them.

Sunday Lists

Sunday Volunteers—September 28

Visitors Center & Coffee-CIA/Pathfinders
Head Usher-11:00 a.m.-Eddy David
Child. Church-8:30 a.m.-Kingdom Kids
Child. Church-11:00 a.m.-Susie & Family
Counters-Betty or Howard & Karen Wilder

Sunday Volunteers—October 5

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.-Kristen & Julia Henry
Counters-Sondra Bogert & Dick Ford

Please Keep In Prayer



*Ruth Weaver, Destinee Tackett, Martha Scudder, Virginia Vice, , Darryl Muse, Tristan Schwartz, Billie Schmidt, Irene Stogsdill, Owen Johnston, SSUMC, Lance Day, Mrs. Frank Dudek, Bob McFall, Paul Waldschmidt, Barnard Family, Jim McCormick, Hal Cauthron, Alan Parker*Unspoken requests

Acknowledgements

A Note from an Old Friend...

Dear Tracey,

Please continue to mail "The Springs" to me. It's my only regular link with Sand Springs. I swap Christmas card notes with a few folks there, but do not keep in touch year-round.

I'm staying well-in my own home, able to look after myself and the six kitties I brought from "back home."

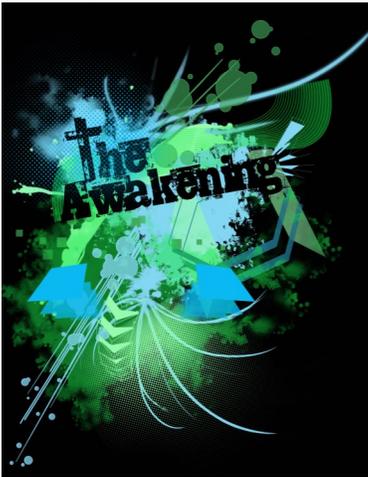
Carol and Randy are about 25 miles away, in Dallas. They visit every Saturday or Sunday and we grocery shop. I chose Mansfield, as it's about the size of Sapulpa, and I'd be comfortable driving here. Unfortunately, I passed out (in Sunday School) soon after moving here, and am no longer permitted to drive. I take a daily anti-seizure medication, and have had no further trouble.

I have pleasant neighbors-seldom see them. Folks across the street bring food when they barbecue or cook something special. I do miss my Bruner Hill area neighbors and folks from the church. But I'm glad to be near Carol and Randy, and my sister, Ruth, who lives with her daughter in Arlington nearby.

Summers here are just as hot and dry as yours. Winters are about 10 degrees warmer. Only one little snow since I moved here.

Love, Peggy (Thomas)

-I thought I would share her letter since we all love Peggy very much- TG



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

September 24th – See You at the Pole

October 1st – Cookout

October 25th – Bowling at Andy B's

October 31st – Trunk or Treat

Update

I hope that you are doing well and having a good year.

See You at the Pole is finally here! It is happening this Wednesday. Students will have the opportunity to pray for their school in the morning and then that night we are having our See You at the Pole Rally at Charles Page High School. We will be meeting at Charles Page at 6:30, there will be inflatables and other games to do outside, and the service will begin at 7:30. It should be an awesome time as we are bringing in a speaker and having a local praise team lead us in worship. The service will end at 8:30. Your students will not want to miss this!

It is hard to believe that we are already getting into October, and the first Wednesday of October we will be having a cookout at Carrol Hammer's house that night. We will be meeting at our Family Life Center at 6:30, going out there together, and then returning there around 8:30. It will be a fun time to hang out and spend some time together as a student ministry.

The last Saturday in October we will be going to Andy B's in Tulsa to bowl. The details will follow later on in the month.

Your Fellow Servant,
Mark



KidZone...

Don't forget! Sunday is Children's Sabbath. Our children will be leading us in worship during both services as they present a musical about Jonah. Third graders will also be receiving Bibles.

Please make plans to join us in worship on Sunday and let the children know that our congregation loves and supports them.

See you Sunday!



Do you still have your Web Site for Dummies flier Rev. Don made us? It is full of information of what is available at our website. Did you know you can go listen to a missed sermon or did you lose a newsletter? The sermons and newsletters are archived on the website! Did you also know you can fill out a calendar request to reserve the church for an event? You can even submit a prayer request!

If you lost your flier, come by my office and pick up a new one. We have plenty of extras.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
FLC-Family Life Center
***Un-sponsored Event**

Wednesday, September 24

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

Thursday, September 25

1:00 p.m.-Ruth Esther Circle-F. Hall
6:00 p.m.-Women's Bible Study-Home of Janna C.
6:30 p.m.-FLC Yard in use
7:00 p.m.-Faith Circle-Parlor
7:00 p.m.-*Karate-FLC

Friday, September 26

No Activities

Saturday, September 27

10:00 a.m.-Praise Team Practice

Sunday, September 28-Children's Sabbath

8:30 a.m.-Modern Worship; 11:00 a.m.-Classic Worship
10:00 a.m.-Sunday School; 9:45 a.m. Communion
2:00 p.m.-ARISE Prayer Meeting

Monday, September 29

6:30 p.m.-Bible Study
7:00 p.m.-Boy Scouts-FLC

Tuesday, September 30

10:00 a.m.-Intercessory Prayer Group
6:30 p.m.-Girl Scout Leader Meeting-F. Hall
6:30 p.m.-Cub Scouts-FLC
7:00 p.m.-Praise Team
7:00 p.m.-Al-Anon-Upstairs

Wednesday, October 1

7:30 a.m.-M/W Breakfast-Crescent Café
10:00 a.m.-Bible Study
6:00 p.m.-Chancel Ringers
6:30 p.m.-Youth-FLC
7:00 p.m.-Chancel Choir

Thursday, October 2

6:00 p.m.-Women's Bible Study-Home of Janna Cheek
6:30 p.m.-FLC Yard in use
7:00 p.m.-*Karate-FLC

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

Return Service Requested



Monday-Thursday
8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

CLOSED 12-1 p.m.

The offices are now
closed on Friday.

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

Sunday, October 12th:

- ARISE!** - 9:30 a.m.—Opening
- 10:30 a.m.—Worship
- 12:00 N—Pot Luck Lunch
- 1:00 p.m.—Workshop
- 3:00 p.m.—Adjourn