



The Springs

Rev. Don Tabberer

April 23, 2014



"Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'..." (John 20:18)

I cannot begin to imagine what it must have been like that first Easter day. Of course it wasn't called "*Easter*"; there were no colored eggs in baskets; no Cadbury bunnies; and no new shoes. Depending on which version of the story you read you will notice the day was either, very loud or very quiet; very clear or very confused; filled with wonder or gripped in fear. The one thing that is clear in all the stories is: Christ is risen indeed, just as he said. **Alleluia!**

I have tried to think about resurrection in terms of what that might mean if we were talking about a family member or a friend instead of Jesus. To find out that someone we loved was truly raised from the dead might be a bit of a shock, but certainly we would come to a place of great joy. I imagine it would be very hard to believe at first, but when we actually had the chance to see and speak to them we would be convinced, wouldn't we? *"I have seen Uncle George!"*

Of course, this scenario seems a little silly, doesn't it? Regular people don't get raised from the dead the way Jesus was. We know how final death is because we have experienced it with someone we loved and we know they are not going to be walking around three days later. That's not the way the world works. That is why this resurrection story is so hard to believe. It was hard for the disciples to believe...Luke tells us they thought Mary's story "*seemed like an idle tale.*" (Luke 24:11) Now here we are again faced with trying to understand Mary as she shouts to us, *"I have seen the Lord"*.

Ultimately, the disciples came to understand and believe what Mary said. Of course, they had the benefit of seeing Jesus for themselves at some point in the story. Even Thomas put his hand in Jesus' wounds to help him believe. The great wonder of the Easter story is that millions of people have heard it and continue to understand and believe it in spite of the fact that they have no opportunity to say for themselves, *"I have seen the Lord"...*or do they?

I think it might depend on how you think about what it means to "*see*" the Lord.

We have been taught since we were children in Sunday school that we are supposed to follow Jesus' example in terms of the way we treat each other and the way in which we behave every day. It seems to me that is how people get the chance to "*see*" Jesus" even though he left the earth over two thousand years ago. Jesus told his disciples, *"Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father."* (John 14:9) In the same way, anyone who sees us also sees the One we emulate. Now, think about that for a minute.

When was the last time you interacted with someone and then thought to yourself, *"I have seen the Lord"*? When was the last time another person said that after meeting you? If other people are not thinking, *"I have seen the Lord"* after meeting you, what are they thinking?

This Easter season I pray that all of us will spend some time discovering who the **Resurrected Jesus really** is and then find more ways to help people see **that** Jesus. Jesus was not a judgmental, criticizing, selfish person. Jesus was forgiving, tolerant, and willing to love and accept all people. Jesus had high expectations for people, but he understood that we are not perfect and he was willing to work with our flaws and our mis-steps and our sinfulness. He did not reject people who didn't fit in or who failed to measure up. He did not condemn; he offered grace and forgiveness and a path to follow where everyone, **even you**, are welcome.

Easter calls us to re-discover the Living Christ and do the hard work of following him. If we can do this; if we can begin to behave more like Jesus, then more people will walk away from **you** saying, *"I have seen the Lord!"*

*In His Name,
Pastor Don*



It's That Time Again

UMW Herbal Affair Bake Sale

Have you been digging out the recipes? This is the big fund raiser for our United Methodist Women but they can't do it without you! They need breads, pies (non-refrigerate), candies, cookies, cakes, nuts, sauces, rolls, spice breads, party mixes and more..... Be creative. All the homemade yummys are BIG sellers. The ladies will be in the parlor and narthex on Friday, April 25th at 9 a.m. to label, weigh, price and tag everything. All goodies need to be in the Narthex by then. Let's make this the biggest year yet!!!



SUMMER CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS

Summer Camp Season is just around the corner and we have exciting plans for our junior and senior high school students. Junior High students will attend **Disciple Camp June 4-8**. Senior High students will attend **Day Spring Camp July 10-14**. Several adult volunteers are also planning to attend camp to work with Mark and our students. It costs **\$250.00** to send a student to camp and we often have students who cannot afford to go without assistance. We provide some opportunities to raise money for the camp fund and we only require that each student pay half their fee; our habit has been to scholarship the other half.

We are praying for your generosity again this year. As the camp fund raising activities come along, please support them by giving generously to such things as the Pie Auction and the Spaghetti Dinner. You may also be inspired to make a cash donation to the Camp Fund in order to help provide scholarships for students who would not otherwise be able to attend camp. Anything you can do to help will be appreciated as we make every effort to bring our students closer to Christ. To make a donation simply label it "CAMP FUND" and include it with your weekly offering or mail it into the church office. **Thank you!**

Weekly Communion

Beginning **Sunday, May 11, 2014** – Mother's Day – we will offer a weekly service of Holy Communion in the Sanctuary at **9:45 AM**.



This short service will use liturgy

from the United Methodist Book of Worship and allow us to receive the sacrament each week separate from our regular worship services. Everyone is invited to participate in this time together. You may stay after our first service or arrive early for Sunday school. Holy Communion will also be served on the first Sunday of each month during our regular worship services.

It's Time to Start Thinking PIE AUCTION!

May 18th will be the youths big fundraiser—the PIE AUCTION! Mark your calendars for 10 a.m. Start digging out those recipes and start saving your money. It is a lot of fun and if you are aggressive enough, you can leave with a well deserved pie! Show up ready to bid. Show up ready to donate! Just Show Up! You'll Love It!

SOMEONE'S PRAYING, LORD.....

My prayer today is one of Thanksgiving. April 6 was a beautiful day of celebrating our 100 years in Sand Springs. First, we can thank our city's founder, Charles Page, for his vision of a God-filled community. The land which our church was first established on, along with land for four other churches, was donated by Mr. Page. We are thankful for the many dedicated people who remained faithful to that vision. Today, we are still dependent on the dedicated, hard-working people who are faithful in keeping the Sand Springs UMC alive and well. We are so thankful for the Bishop and his leadership in our Conference, and for our minister and staff who work daily to serve our church and it's people. Our Holy Week and Easter services were especially meaningful this year.

Today, I'm especially thankful for our wonderful volunteers. So many help in so many different ways, but I saw many of those who love our church come together this month to provide a beautiful celebration of worship, food and fellowship. As Pastor Don said in his Easter sermon, "This is just the beginning!" And to that, I say AMEN. Virginia

Circle Meetings

April 24
1:00 p.m.
Ruth Esther Circle
Fellowship Hall

April 24
7:00 p.m.
Faith Circle
Church Parlor

May Circle Meetings

Priscilla does not meet in May

May 15
7:00 p.m.
Faith Circle
Church Parlor

May 22
1:00 p.m.
Ruth Esther Circle
Fellowship Hall

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



YOU ARE INVITED

*a POUNDING for
MARK & JENNY
Sunday, April 27- 10:00 A. M.
In the Church Narthex*

Bring a pound of anything you think Mark & Jenny can use. We want to welcome our new youth director and his fiancé to their new church family with open arms. Be creative—they certainly can use just about anything we can imagine as they transition to being a married couple.



*YOU ARE INVITED
TO SHARE THE JOY!*

*A WEDDING SHOWER FOR
DON COLE & SYLVIA SCOTT
Sunday, April 27- 2:00 p.m.
In the Church Narthex*

Don & Sylvia will be married April 15 in Eureka Springs.

They are registered at Wal-Mart, Target and Sears. We wish them God's blessings as they begin their new life together, along with Sylvia's daughter, Alecia. Men are welcome to come and show support to Don also.

Sunday Lists

Sunday Volunteers—April 27

Visitors Center & Coffee-Discovery

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-Janie Moore & Kent Warkentin

Sunday Volunteers—May 4

Visitors Center & Coffee-TNT

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

Young Disciples Lesson-8:30a.m.-Kristen Henry

Young Disciples Lesson-11:00 a.m.-Kristen Henry

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

Child. Church-11:00a.m.-Kristen & Julia Henry

Counters-Diana Pond & Jack Vest

Please Keep In Prayer

Ruth Weaver, Donna Woodruff, Destinee Tackett, Sylvia Johnson, Clinton Wilson, Martha Scudder, Virginia Vice, Marilyn Peil, Michael Bostwick & Kelsey (Bostwick family friend), Cathy Hula, Beverly Rousey, Charlotte Cain, Unspoken requests, Darryl Muse, Tristan Schwartz, Jim Wilson, Whitney Roberts, Nique Ropp, June Shreffler, Louise Read, Irene Stogsdill, Shanti (Mary McGowan's granddaughter), Randy Trammell, Owen Johnston

Acknowledgements

Thank You...

Friends of Sand Springs United Methodist Church—Thank you for all of your support that you gave to our family during the benefit for Darryl. We appreciate your gifts, cards and especially your prayers! May God richly bless each one of you.

Love, Darryl & Karen Muse

Thank You...

The church quilt is finished! A big thank you goes to Pat Bordelon, Marilee Randall, Graeme Collett, Virginia Baldrige, Kay Woodward, the Warkentin family, and others who may have left their t-shirts in the church office anonymously. Without your generous participation, the project might not have come together. A special thanks goes to Jo Fritts, who embroidered the Methodist cross for the center of the quilt. Thank You Again!

Heide Bostwick

Thank You...

Caleb and I would like to thank the KidZone leaders and kids for the wonderful breakfast on Easter Sunday. We enjoyed to good (great!) food, great fellowship and the amazing atmosphere. To the ladies who lead the KidZone, we really appreciate you for all you do!!!

Caleb & Lisa Massey



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

April 30th – The Awakening @ Green Tree
May 8th – Baccalaureate @ Angus Acres
May 14th – The Awakening @ Restore Hope
May 17th – Paintball
May 18th – Graduate Recognition
May 18th – Pie Auction Fundraiser

Update

Hello everyone, I pray that your Easter weekend was full of family, fun, and thankfulness to the Lord for the fact that He rose from the dead, conquering death, and giving us freedom in Christ!

This week we will be wrapping up our current Wednesday night series, "Who Is This Man?" and then on the 30th we will be going to Green Tree. May is going to be a full month. With graduation, the end of school, and my wedding we are looking at a fun, yet busy month. The first thing in May is our Baccalaureate which is being put on by various churches in the area, that is happening May 8th at 7 p.m., your seniors are welcome, and I hope that they can attend. On May 17th, we will be taking the youth paintballing, they have been asking me to do this for a while, and we finally found a date where we could. On May 18th, we will be recognizing our grads in the morning services and we will be having our Pie Auction Fundraiser. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year, so I hope that you will support our youth by giving a dessert or coming and bidding on our desserts.

I pray that God continues to grow you in your faith and guide your steps.

Your Fellow Servant,
Mark



kidzone

We had such a wonderful time at our annual KidZone Easter breakfast. We had over 40 in attendance. The children were excited to have their family members join them for breakfast. They worked

really hard making decorations for the tables and it made everything look very festive. Thank you to Ms. Debbie and Ms. Marty for their hard work hosting this annual event for the children and their families.

Summer is just around the corner. We will be doing a summer lesson series called "Weird Animals: Where God's Love is One-of-a-Kind." God filled the world with a lot of crazy creatures...including us! This lesson material recognizes that sometimes we all can feel weird, different, or even lost in a crowd—and we know that nothing compares to the extraordinary love of Jesus.

Save the date!! VBS is coming up July 20-24. More details to come!

See you Sunday!!

2nd Monday Book Club

The 2nd Monday Book Club had to postpone their April meeting at the last minute. We will be meeting on April 28 at a local restaurant. We will enjoy dinner together and a time of fellowship as we discuss our April book selections. If you are interested in attending you can email Amy Miller at

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

Wednesday, April 23

7:30 a.m.-Men's Breakfast—Crescent Café
10:00 a.m.-Exercise to Music
3:30 p.m.-Art Class-F. Hall
6:30 p.m.-The Awakening Youth-FLC
6:00 p.m.-Chancel Ringers
7:00 p.m.-Chancel Choir

Thursday, April 24

11:00 a.m.-Needlers-Parlor
1:00 p.m.-Ruth Esther Circle-F. Hall
5:30 p.m.-FLC in use
6:30 p.m.-FLC in use
7:00 p.m.-Faith Circle-Parlor

Friday, April 25

9:00 a.m.-UMW Work Day
6:00 p.m.-FLC in use

Saturday, April 26

Herbal Affair
FLC in use all day

Sunday, April 27

8:30 a.m.-Modern Worship; 11:00 a.m.-Classic Worship
10:00 a.m.-Sunday School
10:00 a.m.-Pounding for Mark & Jenny
1:00 p.m.-Youth Mentor Group
1:15 p.m.-Finance Meeting
2:00 p.m.-Wedding Shower for Don & Sylvia

Monday, April 28

10:00 a.m.-Exercise to Music-FLC
7:00 p.m.-Boy Scouts-FLC

Tuesday, April 29

7:00 a.m.-Sandite Baseball Team Breakfast-FLC
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, April 30

7:30 a.m.-Men's Breakfast-Crescent Café
10:00 a.m.-Exercise to Music-FLC
6:00 p.m.-Chancel Ringers
6:30 p.m.-Youth-FLC
7:00 p.m.-Chancel Choir

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