

# The Springs



Rev. Don Tabberer



*"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"*  
(Luke 2:14, NRSV)

Last week, most people got some time off work and were

able to spend some time with family and friends, over good food, great memories, and a little football. Macy's had their big parade on TV. Black Friday coaxed a few people out to the malls. And, somewhere in this busy schedule, we took some time to be thankful. That was kind of the whole point, wasn't it?

Next week, the Advent season begins as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. We'll spend Saturday morning (12/2) decorating the church to set the stage for the Christmas season. We're planning special worship services. The choir is rehearsing their Christmas program and the Kingdom Kids are hard at work on theirs. The Choir Cantata and the Children's program, *"Camel Lot,"* will be presented on December 17<sup>th</sup>.

We all have shopping to do, decorations to put up at home, cookies to bake, and lots of activity to get our families ready for the Christmas holiday. And, somewhere in this busy schedule, I hope we will all take some time to be thankful.

The first Sunday in Advent is December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Our theme this year is, *"What Child is This?"* This series will lead us to a deeper understanding of who Jesus really is and why he came to earth. We will look at his story again through the eyes of a wise man, a shepherd, a mother, and a father. I hope you will join us each Sunday in Advent for this important spiritual study.

Christmas Eve this year falls on Sunday. We will have both regular services at 8:45 and 11:00am using the liturgy for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent. Then, on Sunday evening

at 5:00pm, we will have our Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion service. We will be doing an interactive Christmas Story with the children and youth during this service. Please plan on spending a little time with us on Christmas Eve this year; bring the whole family!

Now, I am aware that everyone has lots to do during the Christmas season. Besides your regular jobs and other duties, all this added stuff gets piled on. Sometimes, it may seem like the stress of the holidays is just too much to bear. If that happens to you, please consider what you can change about your holiday schedule to lower your stress level. Don't let the hubbub get in the way of the great blessing that this season is built around. This is about the birth of our Savior. It is not about presents, decorations, lights, and parties. It is about Jesus. If you keep Jesus in the middle of all your holiday preparations, I believe your whole holiday season will be less stressful and more enjoyable, for everyone in your life.

Be sure to put time in your schedule every day to think about why we celebrate Christmas and what is really important at this time of year. Think of new ways to celebrate with family that reminds everyone of the real reasons we gather. Be sure to save time for church over the next four weeks. The Advent journey is designed to lead us through a time of preparation for Christmas morning. Don't leave this part out of your preparations this year.

*God bless,  
Pastor Don*

## UMW Goody Bags

We will be stuffing the goody bags for the TU Wesley Foundation this Friday, December 1st, in our Fellowship Hall at 9:30 am. Everything has been purchased, we will simply stuff the bags for delivery. In the past we have done this in the Parlor so please note that we will meet in Fellowship Hall. Any questions, call Trish at [918-245-5508](tel:918-245-5508). Thanks for your help and support!

## Priscilla Circle Christmas Party

We will meet at the home of Virginia Baldrige, Tuesday, December 5th at 6:30. Bring a dish to share for our dinner and a gift of \$10 or less for our friendly (or not-so-friendly) gift exchange. Guests are welcome! Come and enjoy a wonderful group of ladies. For further information, call Virginia at [918-245-9248](tel:918-245-9248)

## Birthday Party for Jesus - December 17

It's Tradition! There will be a wonderful time of fellowship and Christmas goodies following our evening of music by the Adult, Children, and Youth Choirs. The children will gather around the cake to sing Happy Birthday to Jesus. Bring your favorite Christmas goodies (sweet and/or savory) to share as we celebrate with our choirs after this special program.



## Cathy's Notes

The Advent season is upon us once again and with it brings some beautiful music. The music schedule includes the

Kingdom Kids' presentation of "The Camel Lot," on December 17 at 6:00 PM. This is a fun and meaningful story about finding time for Jesus at the busiest time of the year. Immediately following the children will be the Chancel Choir's cantata, "Sing Joy to All the World," with carols old and new. The Happy Birthday, Jesus party will be held in the fellowship hall after the cantata, so please bring your holiday treats to share with everyone. Sunday services will

also feature some of our choir members in special songs, such as Connie Fisher singing "Sweet Little Jesus Boy" this coming Sunday and Joyful Noise with a special on December 17. I pray you will find inspiration and joy this season through our music.



## Hey Kids-

What an awesome job you did on Sunday delivering our Kidzone stockings to the Sand Springs Community Center. THANK YOU to our church family for their generous support of our fundraiser. We were able to purchase and fill 127 stockings for kids of all ages. Special thanks to Caleb, Lisa, Gracey Kate & Jayce Massey, Julia Henry, Amy and Lauren Miller, Cayleigh Smith, Sara Riker, Jami and Hallye Warkentin, YaYa and Miss Amanda for helping our kids stuff and deliver the stockings.



Next Sunday we will begin lessons on Christmas and the birth of Jesus. Be sure and come next week as we continue to practice for our Christmas program on December 17th at 6 p.m.

Have a great week!

Miss Debbie & Miss Marty

## Seniors In Action

Let's meet Wednesday, Dec. 6th for a Christmas Potluck and get "reacquainted"! After almost a whole year of inactivity, we need to gather and "catch-up" with each other. So... let's meet in the Fellowship Hall at 11:30, Wednesday, Dec. 6th with bells on and food in hand! Ham and drinks will be provided. Please bring a side dish, salad, dessert, or Christmas goody to share. Our quartet, "Joyful Noise" will sing a song or two for you, too! Call Max or Sharon Schuermann at 918.619.5141 for further questions. Sign-up is not mandatory to come, but would be appreciated just for planning purposes. In the meantime, Happy Thanksgiving to all of you!

## Staff Appreciation Fund

Staff Parish Relations Committee is asking for your assistance in contributing to an Appreciation Fund which will be given to the church staff as a Christmas Gift.

We are blessed to have dedicated individuals who provide: Pastoral Care & Ministry, Office Support, Music Ministry, Youth & Children's Ministry, & Nursery.

Our church has not been able to provide pay raises for our staff in several years—in fact, due to budget concerns, their salaries were decreased in 2014. Please help us to recognize and show gratitude to these hard-working and deserving staff members. Please take time between now and December 17th to prayerfully consider giving. Gifts may be given to any SPRC members. The current members are Gary Dobbs, Karen Wilder, Eddy David, Daniel Comer, Buster Hall, Jami Warkentin, Becky Barnes, and Don Baldridge. Thank you for your loving support to our church, our ministries and our staff.

## Mission to Stitch

### End of year report

September through December 2016, 416 caps were turned in with 116 donated.

January through November 2017, 478 caps with 247 donated and 35 hankies, 69 blankets, and 131 gowns with 44 donated. Total for 16 months of work: 894 caps, with 363 donated, 35 hankies, 69 blankets and 131 gowns with 44 donated. I would like to thank all who donated to our cause, whether it was buttons, yarn, blankets, cash or your time. I appreciate all your help. I look forward to next year. We will have new projects, old items to continue and babies in need. Come walk with me in this endeavor.

Cynthia Alex

## Faith Circle Calendar Change

Our Christmas Party will be December 7th at 6:30pm at the home of Janie Moore. Please mark your calendars.

## Thank You

Thank you sincerely for sharing our sorrow. Your kindness is deeply appreciated and will always be remembered.

Most Sincerely,  
Becky Barnes & Family



## Please Keep In Prayer

Martha Scudder, Linda Tabberer, Charlene Reeves, BW Proft, Sue Shaw, Greta Green, Bob & Cathy Hula, Bill & Clare Caldwell, John & Sylvia Johnson, Jack & Jewell Brown, Barbara McClintock, Montie Box, Owen Johnston, Albert Kahl's mom & sister in law, Ron Hay, Ruth Weaver, Angy Krebs-Warden

If someone needs to be added to the prayer list or someone was taken off too soon, please contact Tracey in the front office so the prayer list can be updated.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR SAND SPRINGS UMC

### Monday, November 27

10:00am-Al-Anon-Upstairs  
5:30pm-4th Monday Community Dinner-F. Hall  
6:30pm-Charge Conference-First UMC-1115 So. Boulder  
7:00pm-Boy Scouts-FLC

### Tuesday, November 28

6:00pm-Cub Scouts-FLC  
7:00pm-Praise Team Practice

### Wednesday, November 29

7:30am-M/W Breakfast-Crescent Café  
5:45pm-Y4Y  
6:30pm-The Awakening—Youth  
7:00pm-Chancel Choir Practice

### Thursday, November 30

\*7:00pm-Collins Karate-FLC

### Friday, December 1

9:30am-UMW Goody Bags  
\*7:00pm-Sand Springs Christmas Parade-Downtown

### Saturday, December 2

Church Decorating for Christmas

### Sunday, December 3

8:45am-Contemporary Worship  
10:00am-1st Sunday Missions  
10:00am-Sunday School  
11:00am-Traditional Worship  
\*1:00pm-FLC in use

### Monday, December 4

10:00am-Al-Anon-Upstairs  
7:00pm-Boy Scouts-Family Life Center

### Tuesday, December 5

6:00pm-Cub Scouts-FLC  
6:30pm-Priscilla Circle Christmas Party-Virginia B.  
7:00pm-Praise Team

### Wednesday, December 6

7:30am-M/W Breakfast-Crescent Café  
11:30am-SIA Potluck-F. Hall  
5:45pm-Y4Y  
6:30pm-Youth-FLC  
7:00pm-Chancel Choir

*FLC-Family Life Center  
\*-Not sponsored by  
SSUMC but welcome*

**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)

### Sunday Volunteers—December 3

Visitors Center & Coffee: TNT  
Head Usher-8:30am: Amanda Honeycutt  
Head Usher-11:00am: Eddy David  
Child. Church: 8:30am: Kingdom Kids  
Teaching: Jami Warkentin  
Children's Church: Communion  
Counters: Diana Pond & Jack Vest

### Sunday Volunteers—December 10

Visitors Center & Coffee: TNT  
Head Usher-8:30am: Amanda Honeycutt  
Head Usher-11:00am: Eddy David  
Child. Church-8:30am: Kingdom Kids  
Teaching: Jami Warkentin  
Children's Church: Marty David  
Counters: Betty or Howard & Karen Wilder

### Newsletter List

If you are receiving the newsletter and would like to be taken off the mailing/e-mail list, please call me during office hours to let me know.

If you know of someone who isn't getting it but would like to, please get their home/email address and pass it on to me. We don't want to leave anyone out.

Thanks!

Tracey