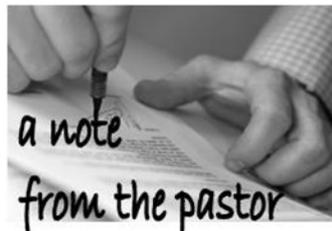


The Springs



Rev. Don Tabberer



It is difficult to believe that we are nearly at the end of 2017. This year seems to have flown by in a blur. And, in some ways, that is precisely how the year has gone. So, today I want to take a few moments to reflect

on where we've been and how you, as our church, have blessed us in so many ways. I also want to think about what lies just over the horizon for SSUMC.

On August 25, 2016, Linda and I began a journey that we never expected. Most of you will remember how our lives changed after her diagnosis. We were ill-prepared for the lifestyle changes, the disappointments, the setbacks, and the challenges to our faith. I cannot imagine that we would have come through this without the love and support of you, our congregation. It is not often that a pastor must depend so completely on his "flock;" the norm is reversed. Your prayers, your generosity, and your patience have made it possible for us to weather the hard times and relish in the good ones. We truly feel that you are all part of our "recovery team" and that you have been critical to the success Linda has seen over these past months.

Which brings me to one of the great success stories about SSUMC. Prayer is, and always has been, an integral part of the life of this church. When we first arrived here, we could see and feel how deeply committed to prayer you all are. Over and over, we have heard stories from people who were beneficiaries of your prayers. Just this past week, we heard a testimony from a woman whose granddaughter we prayed for awhile back. This little girl lives in Alabama and her grandmother told us how they believed that our prayers made a difference in her recovery from a life-threatening illness. I'm sure you all have stories to share of prayers that were answered. Prayer is

truly one of the great strengths of this congregation because you understand that God is in control and that God continues to provide for us. Keep praying that God's will would be done in the world.

Our church stands at a point in its history that is both challenging and exciting. You may have heard that we have a group called the Mission Strategy Team that has been investigating new and creative ways to reach out to new people in our community. This group has already hosted a couple events at our Family Life Center this fall. Their work is based on the understanding that the church is called to go out to the people, not wait for the people to come to us. SSUMC has two facilities right now and we need to use all our resources to reach the unchurched and de-churched people of Sand Springs. As I said in Sunday's message: *"Everyone is seeking The One who will save them, whether they realize it or not."* It is our task to help people find what they are seeking.

With that in mind, we are planning to expand the conversation to the entire church. Shortly after the first of next year, we will have a "Visioning Night." This will be a chance for all of us to talk about the resources we have and to visualize how we might best use these resources to reach more people for Christ. I hope you will pray about this idea and that you will join us when we schedule the date.

Finally, Linda and I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and the best the New Year has to offer. Thank you for being our church.

*Keep praying,
Pastor Don*

Sunday, December 17, 2017-It's BIG!!!

It's Tradition! The Kingdom Kids will present their Christmas musical, *Camel Lot*. Immediately following that program, the Chancel Choir will bring us joy through music with their Christmas cantata, *Sing joy to All the World*. THEN, immediately following that, we will join together for a Birthday party for Jesus! Bring your favorite Christmas goodie-sweet or savory -and let's celebrate together!

Sunday, December 24, 2017

8:45am—Contemporary
Worship Service

11:00am—Traditional
Worship Service

5:00pm—Christmas Eve
Candlelight Communion
Service

December 25-Christmas Day

4th Monday Community Meal

We see no reason to cancel this special meal even if it is Christmas Day!! As a matter of fact, we see a perfect reason not to. Do you see it? It's the friendship. It's the fellowship. It's serving our community in need and not in need. It's just a coming together for a meal. And it is special. Bring a side dish or dessert and come see what it is all about! Come sit with strangers and leave with friends!

December 25-Offices Closed

Offices will remain closed until

January 2, 2018-Offices Open

Emergency: Call Pastor Don's cell at 918-932-0166

SSUMC Angel Tree

There are still several tags on our Angel Tree. Please consider taking an angel from the tree. If you have never bought for someone you don't even know, it is the most rewarding feeling-especially this time of year. Come read the tags, find one in your price range buy and wrap (or sack) the item and return it to the church—**WITH THE ANGEL TAG ATTACHED.** It is exciting knowing we are giving Christmas to a whole family! The gifts need to be at the church by 11am Christmas Day. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

No Chancel Choir...No Youth...No Y4Y

The week between
Christmas & New Year

See ya in 2018!

We wish you a Merry Christmas

From Mom and Me!

We cannot express how much we appreciate each and every one of you. Your kind words and actions allow us to continue to enjoy every minute of every year we get to spend with you!

With all our Love,

Judy & Tracey

Sunday Lists

Sunday Volunteers—December 17

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: Amy Miller
Counters: Sondra Allen & Dick Ford

Sunday Volunteers—December 24

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: Lisa & Caleb Massey
Counters: Bob Barnes & Jami Warkentin

Thank You

*I would like to thank CIA/Pathfinders,
Montie & Betty, Kristen, Jami & Daphne
for their support.*

*Thank you,
Cynthia Alex, Jordan & Jaiden Bridges
(My grandchildren)*

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.

While your praying...

Let's keep in our hearts and prayers those who are less fortunate than us. Those who suffer daily in their circumstances. Those who, for whatever reason, can't step forward and request prayer-the unspoken requests.

Let's remember to be all inclusive in our prayers.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR SAND SPRINGS UMC

Monday, December 11

10:00am-Al-Anon-Upstairs
7:00pm-Boy Scouts-FLC

Tuesday, December 12

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

Wednesday, December 13

7:30am-Men's Breakfast-Crescent Café
5:45pm-NO Y4Y
6:30pm-The Awakening—Youth
7:00pm-Chancel Choir Practice

Thursday, December 14

*7:00pm-Collins Karate-FLC

Friday, December 15

6:00pm-FLC in use

Saturday, December 16

8:00am-FLC in use

Sunday, December 17

8:45am-Contemporary Worship
9:45am-Communion Service
10:00am-Sunday School
11:00am-Traditional Worship
6:00pm-Kingdom Kids & Chancel Choir Musical Programs
Immediately following-Birthday Party for Jesus

Monday, December 18

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

Tuesday, December 19

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

Wednesday, December 20

7:30am-Men's Breakfast-Crescent Café
5:45pm-NO 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

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