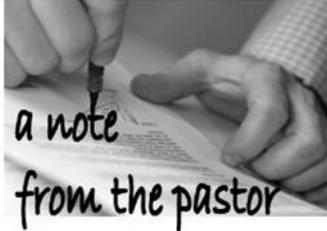


The Springs



Rev. Don Tabberer



By definition, The United Methodist Church is a methodical organization. One might read “bureaucratic” into that definition. It seems that, as the church grew in America through the years, the need for

organization grew as well. Larger churches needed more governance and committees were devised to handle the business of the corporate church. Oversight was important, so the various committees needed to prepare reports for governing boards so that everyone knew what was going on. The Book of Discipline went from a small soft cover pocket-book to an ever-increasing volume of rules, regulations, and guidelines. The Methodist Movement had grown up and the resulting structure became a hungry pet that required feeding and care.

John Wesley’s intent, I believe, was to foster local churches where the people in the pews led the congregation into mission and ministry in their community. Clergy came and went, particularly in the days of the Circuit Rider, but the laity remained to do the work. As the church got bigger and the bureaucracy grew hungrier, congregations sometimes got so caught up in feeding the beast that the real work – the mission of the church – suffered from neglect. In the last fifty years or so, churches across America have seen dramatic declines in attendance and some believe that it is the focus and bureaucracy and the loss of mission clarity that has driven some people away from the church. There are many reasons for church decline, but this is one we may have a chance to make better.

Over the past six months, our Mission Strategy Team has been working to find new and creative ways to reach out to our community from the Family Life Center. They continue to work to find the best ways to use that facility for ministry. Other church committees have been having conversations about what they can do to be more focused on mission and less on “business.” All of us have been trying to figure out the best ways to be the best church we can be by

accepting the reality of who we are now. The truth is that our church is not what it once was in terms of size and resources. Things have changed, and we must be ready to be our best where we find ourselves right now. Don’t misread this; I am not suggesting that we should bemoan our losses and pull back our mission. I am suggesting the opposite action. I believe that, if we will be our best right where God has placed us, then that will lead to God bringing us more to do.

I am asking that we all make 2018 a **Year of Transformation** for our church. This is the year we will focus all our energies on what we do best and set aside habits, bureaucracies, and attitudes that take our minds off worship and mission. I believe that we should worship God with energy and excitement all the time. We need to renew our commitment to attend worship regularly, understanding that “regularly” does not mean once a month. We need to gather together every week to strengthen our relationship with God and with each other. We need to study and pray to have any hope of doing God’s mission in the world.

We need to find the best ways to be good stewards of what God has given us. That includes a clearer focus on giving. To be the church means to support the church with all you are and all you have. Giving to the mission and ministry of the church is an essential part of that. It also includes being good stewards of our time. We need to spend a lot less time in meetings, talking about great ideas and more time executing those ideas. We need to be better stewards of our time.

Finally, we need to find the very best ways to do the business of the church. We can’t do ministry if the church isn’t functioning. The key is to be sure that we function in the best ways possible. This takes creative thinking.

My friends, God has called us into a mighty mission and given us all we need to accomplish it. Our job is to use what we have and get the mission done.

*Have a great week,
Pastor Don*



UMW News

Circle Meetings 2018 begin Tuesday, 1/23.

Faith Circle meets on Thursday, January 25th at 6:30pm in the Parlor.

Maureen Gibson has the

program and refreshments.

Priscilla Circle will meet on January 23rd at 7:00pm at Susan Edwards home. Becky Barnes has the refreshments and Trish House has the program.

Ruth Esther Circle meets on January 25th at 1:00pm in the fellowship hall. Joyce McFall has the program and Joyce Stewart has the devotion and Joanna Wilson is bringing refreshments. Thank you for continuing our work in love and action.

Cynthia and Judy—Co-Presidents

UMW Yearbooks Update:

I hope to have yearbooks ready by Tuesday, 1/23/2018 afternoon. Fingers Crossed!

2018 Lent Lunch Schedule

February 20

Sand Springs United Methodist Church

Rev. Don Tabberer

February 27

St. Andrew Lutheran

Paul Ozbun

March 6

Dillon Chapel at Woodland Memorial Park

Jerry Dillon

March 13

First Presbyterian Church

Pastor AnnAline Drake

March 20

St. Patrick's Catholic Church

Fr. Todd Nance

March 27

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

Fr. Clark Shackelford



Hey Kids-

We had a great group of kids yesterday in Kingdom Kids and Kidzone. Miss Cathy is getting us ready to sing in the 8:45 service in a couple of weeks. We finished our lessons on Moses. We talked

how God loves us and the 10 Commandments He gave to His people. We are to love others as God loves us.

Have an awesome week and see you next Sunday. Miss Debbie and Miss Marty



SENIORS IN ACTION POTLUCK

This Friday, January 26th
11:30am

Fellowship Hall

Soups and drinks will be provided. Please bring a salad, sandwiches, chips/

dips, goodies... anything you like to go with soup. If you need a ride or have any questions, please call Max or Sharon Schuermann at 918-619-5141.



Last Sunday for Super Bowl Sub Sign-Up!!

This coming Sunday, January 28th is the last Sunday to sign up to buy your sub sandwiches from the youth

group. Look in the bulletin for your "Menu" options. Check the box you want and turn them in to the orange basket on the welcome table in the narthex (outside the offices). For \$7 you get a sub sandwich, chips, and drink. Pick them up on Sunday, February 4th after early worship, after Sunday school, or after second service.

Sunday Lists

Please Keep In Prayer

Sunday Volunteers—January 28, 2018

Visitors Center & Coffee: CIA/Pathfinders
Head Usher-8:30am: Amanda Honeycutt
Head Usher-11:00am: Eddy David
Child. Church: 8:30am: Kingdom Kids
Teaching: Jami Warkentin
Children's Church: Amanda Honeycutt
Counters: Bob Barnes & Jami Warkentin

Sunday Volunteers—February 4, 2018

Visitors Center & Coffee: Harmony
Head Usher-8:30am: Amanda Honeycutt
Head Usher-11:00am: Eddy David
Child. Church-8:30am: Kingdom Kids
Teaching: Jami Warkentin
Children's Church: Kids remain for Communion
Counters: Janie Moore & Kent Warkentin



Martha Scudder, Linda Tabberer, Charlene Reeves, June Brown, BW Proft, Sue Shaw, Keri Bostwick, Greta Green, Bob & Cathy Hula, Bill & Clare Caldwell, John & Sylvia Johnson, Jewell Brown, Barbara McClintock, Montie Box, Owen Johnston, Albert Kahl's mom & sister in law, 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.

2018

2018 Children's Church

1/28-Amanda Honeycutt
2/11-Marty David
2/18-Amy Miller
2/25-Kat Katzung
3/11-Jo Fritts
3/18-Debbie Schmidt
3/25-Susie Honeycutt

2018-Counters

1/28-Bob Barnes & Jami Warkentin
2/4-Janie Moore & Kent Warkentin
2/11-Diana Pond & Jack Vest
2/18-Betty or Howard Smith & Karen Wilder
2/25-Sondra Allen & Dick Ford
3/4-Bob Barnes & Jami Warkentin
3/11-Janie Moore & Kent Warkentin
3/18-Diana Pond & Jack Vest
2/25-Sondra Allen & Dick Ford

2018 Youth Dinners

1/24-Noah/Searchers Sunday School Class
1/31-CIA/Pathfinders
2/7-Faith Circle
2/14-TNT
2/21-Ruth Esther Circle
2/28-Seniors In Action
3/7-Priscilla Circle
3/14-Noah/Searchers
3/21-CIA/Pathfinders
3/28-Faith Circle

2018-Coffee

January-CIA/Pathfinders
February-Harmony
March-Discovery
April-TNT
May-CIA/Pathfinders
June-Harmony
July-Discovery
August-TNT
September-CIA/Pathfinders
October-Harmony
November-Discovery
December-TNT

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR SAND SPRINGS UMC

Monday, January 22

10:00am-Al-Anon-Upstairs
5:30pm-4th Monday Community Meal-F. Hall
7:00pm-Boy Scouts-FLC

Tuesday, January 23

6:00pm-Cub Scouts-FLC
7:00pm-Priscilla Circle-Home of Susan E.
7:00pm-Praise Team Practice

Wednesday, January 24

7:30am-Men's Breakfast-Crescent Café
5:45pm-Y4Y
6:30pm-The Awakening—Youth
7:00pm-Chancel Choir Practice

Thursday, January 25

1:00pm-Ruth Esther Circle-F. Hall
6:30pm-Faith Circle-Parlor
*7:00pm-Collins Karate-FLC

Friday, January 26

11:30am-Seniors In Action Potluck-F. Hall

Saturday, January 27

No Activities

Sunday, January 28

8:45am-Contemporary Worship
9:45am-Communion Service
10:00am-Sunday School
11:00am-Traditional Worship

Monday, January 29

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

Tuesday, January 30

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

Wednesday, January 31

7:30am-Men's Breakfast-Crescent Café
5:45pm-Y4Y
6:30pm-Youth-FLC
7:00pm-Chancel Choir

FLC-Family Life Center

**-Not sponsored by SSUMC
but welcome*

Sand Springs UMC

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2018