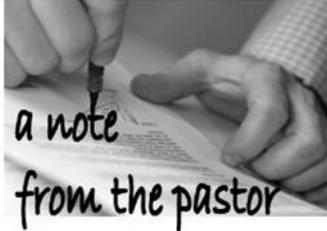


The Springs



Rev. Don Tabberer



In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens

torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

(Mark 1:9-11)

This past weekend was exciting and filled with unexpected possibilities. We had the choice to celebrate Epiphany (1/6) or Jesus' Baptism and I chose baptism so we could do the Reaffirmation of our Baptismal Covenant on the first Sunday of 2018. It was communion Sunday, which added another sacred moment to the morning. Then we welcomed Frank Slane into our membership on his 94th birthday; what a glorious addition to our celebration of baptism. Then, at the last minute, I unexpectedly lost my voice. I am so grateful to Albert Kahl who stepped up with a wonderful message that grew out of my New Year's Eve sermon on kindness. What a blessing!

Though I managed to croak out enough sound to lead us through our covenant renewal and Frank's celebration, I was not able to deliver my message for the day. I'd like to share part of that message here. I wanted to talk about how Mark's gospel offers us a glimpse of Jesus as a real person.

The story of Jesus' baptism is complicated. On the one hand, it often conjures questions about why Jesus needed to be baptized and what his baptism implies for the rest of us. On the other hand, this is a story that reminds us that the gospel is down to earth. It is grounded in the real, tactile, fleshy world in which we live. This story talks about river water, clothes made from camel's hair, and a diet of bugs.

There is a reference to tying shoes, a bird appearing from heaven, and a strange weather phenomenon. The

earthiness, the realism of this story helps us to experience our faith as something more profound than it is abstract; more real than it is otherworldly. It is no accident that Mark begins his gospel with this realistic, down to earth scene. Mark will continue to introduce us to a Jesus who is in touch with the people he seeks to influence. This gospel offers us an earthy portrait of God who came to be with us and who was not afraid to get his hands dirty. Mark's Jesus is one of us.

I share that because it's important to me to remember how close to us Jesus was and is even now. "God with us" is not just some lyric from a Christmas song; it is the reality of the real, flesh and blood, gritty Jesus who understands us. I think of this image often, like when I have no voice to speak and yet worship breaks out. When there's a misspelled word on a slide or a mistake in the calendar, or an announcement doesn't get made – I realize that Jesus does not care about any of that. Jesus cares about us and how we are and what we're feeling. Jesus isn't hanging out somewhere off in the high heavens; Jesus is

We hear that the Holy Spirit descended from heaven and imagine a gentle moment; imagine a Spirit who dives down from heaven to protect its own. This fiery Spirit comes to us where we are and drives us from our church into the world, much like the Spirit drove Jesus from the Jordan into the wilderness. The wilderness into which we are driven is where we battle beasts and resist our demons with help from spirits that are heavier than air. Mark brings the gospel into the realities of our struggles.

Makes my sore throat seem kind of trivial. Thanks to Mark for a dose of perspective.

*Have a great week,
Pastor Don*

UMW News



Welcome UMW Ladies to 2018; where SMALL THINGS MAKE FOR GREAT HAPPENINGS!

Circle Meetings will begin in January.

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

Hey Kids-



It was great to see everyone yesterday! Our Bible story was how God rescued His people and He is the one we can always trust. Moses was chosen by God to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. Egypt's king was very mean and only after the 10 plagues were sent did he finally let them go.

Be sure and come next Sunday as we continue the journey of Moses and the Israelites to God's promised land.

Have a great week!
Miss Debbie & Miss Marty

Cathy's Notes



Happy New Year to everyone! Thank you to all who worked so hard in preparing music for Advent and Christmas. From Sunday anthems and specials, to the cantata and the children's musical, and to the Christmas Eve service with beautiful flute music from Madison Smith, our church was truly blessed this season.

Choir, what a beautiful job you did Sunday on "Down to the River to Pray." I never get

tired of hearing that sweet song. And our choir loft was nearly full. What a glorious sight! Your dedication is appreciated.

We welcomed Judy Hancock to the choir recently, and we're grateful Becky Barnes joined us for the cantata. Anyone interested in singing with us is welcome to show up any Wednesday night at 7PM and I will find a place for you.

May you find God's blessings and grace in the new year!

Singing His Praise,
Cathy

THANK YOU...THANK YOU...THANK YOU...

We have a couple of *THANK YOU'S* to share...

Dear Church Family, Thank you again for all your prayers and support these past months. Your gifts of food and household items have really helped to make my new apartment livable. Thanks so much,
Shawn Cole

AND

Thank you to everyone who participated in the ANGEL TREE this year. We were fortunate to get a family with 2 little boys and some very humble parents. They were beyond excited and grateful!

BY THE WAY... 9th grade center apple tree in the narthex still has one apple on it. One LONELY apple! It is for a couch for the library. Do you or anyone you know think this could be worked out?

SENIORS IN ACTION! Let's get together to welcome in the New Year! We'll have a soup potluck on Friday, January 26th, at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Soups and drinks will be provided. Please bring a salad, sandwiches, chips, dip, goody... anything you like... to go with the soups. We'll have a good visit, and maybe, a little entertainment! If you need a ride, or have a question, please call Max or Sharon at [918.619.5141](tel:918.619.5141). Hope to see you there!



Sunday Lists

Please Keep In Prayer

Sunday Volunteers—January 14, 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: Jo Fritts
Counters: Betty or Howard Smith & Karen Wilder

Sunday Volunteers—January 21, 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: Debbie Schmidt
Counters: Sondra Allen & Dick Ford



Martha Scudder, Linda Tabberer, Charlene Reeves, June Brown, Bill Schwartz, 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.

Missions 2018

As we start the New Year I want to talk about my ideas for Mission projects for the year. First, in 2015 southern Oklahoma suffered flooding. Although the floods were extensive, they didn't meet the level for federal assistance. As a result, homeowners without insurance, usually the poor, the disabled, and the elderly, did not have access to resources that would help them repair their homes. The United Methodist Church Disaster Response Ministry has taken on the role of meeting long-term recovery needs following disasters. Currently there are nearly 200 homes needing some sort of repair. Funding expires this year and what is needed are volunteers to provide labor to complete repairs. I would like to gather a group to work with UMC-DRM in doing what we can to get people back in their homes. We could take a long weekend, once or twice before the money runs out, to do what we can. You don't need any skills. There are needs for everyone with every ability. If you would be interested please let me know, by email, phone call, or in person.

We are a church committed to doing the Lord's work through our labor to help others. We as Methodists are asked to evidence our desire for salvation, "By ...doing good of every possible sort, and, far as possible, to all." Sand Springs UMC is recognized by others as a "mission" church. It is my hope to continue that tradition this year, and build strong foundations to continue and expand our mission to our community and to the world.

Finally, many of us do mission work on our own. I would ask a small favor that those of you who are doing "your own thing" to please let me know what you are doing. I ask because we, as a church, have to report at the end of the year our missional activity. This is reflected in our church report, the district report, and finally, the Annual Conference report. Every year when I view the Annual Conference report I am saddened to see the decline in membership reflected in a graph. However, while the graph is going down slightly, the graph of mission activity of our conference is going up at two to three times greater than the decline and that lets me know we are still a relevant force in the world.

As always, I am now and always will be, your brother in Christ.
Buster Hall

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR SAND SPRINGS UMC

Monday, January 8

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

Tuesday, January 9

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

Wednesday, January 10

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

Thursday, January 11

*7:00pm-Collins Karate-FLC

Friday, January 12

NO Activities

Saturday, January 13

No Activities

Sunday, January 14

8:45am-Contemporary Worship
9:45am-Communion Service
10:00am-Sunday School
11:00am-Traditional Worship
1:30pm-Finance Committee Meeting
2:30pm-Church Council Meeting

Monday, January 15-Offices Closed

10:00am-Al-Anon-Upstairs
6:00pm-Worship Committee Meeting-Parlor
7:00pm-Boy Scouts-Family Life Center

Tuesday, January 16

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

Wednesday, January 17

7:30am-Men’s Breakfast-Crescent Café
1:30pm-Mission to Stitch
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

January Meetings

- ◆ **January 14**
1:30pm-Finance Committee
2:30pm-Church Council
- ◆ **January 15**
6:00pm-Worships Committee
- ◆ **January 21**
1:30pm-Staff Parish Committee
1:30pm-Trustee Committee Meeting