

Sand Springs United Methodist Church

The Springs



Rev. Don Tabberer



"O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water." (Psalm 63:1, NIV)

Have you ever been so thirsty that your tongue stuck to the roof of your mouth and you felt like you might choke from the lack of moisture? Think of a hot August afternoon when the temperature peaks past 100 degrees and there doesn't seem to be a glass big enough to hold the water you need to drink. Has your skin ever felt so dry that you think it might just crack or it itches and no amount of scratching brings relief? Think of a cold winter day when the furnace dries the air, your skin is stretched tight and the bottle of Nivea cream just went empty. This is what it feels like to face complete spiritual dryness that parches the soul.

David's words echo to us from the barren desert where he is hiding from his enemies and longing for the presence of God to comfort him. He speaks of a deep spiritual thirst and a physical aching for God to nourish and sooth him. David's longing is not unlike our own. I believe we all have a deep hunger and thirst for God in our lives. I also believe that we often fail to acknowledge this longing and mask it behind the busy-ness of life. We don't want to admit when we really need God; we are too accustomed to being self-reliant. If we surrender to God we might appear weak or we might have to turn away from something we really enjoy. What we forget is this from Proverbs 3:6, *"In everything you do, put God first, and He will direct you and crown your efforts with success."* In other words, if we surrender our selves to God, our spiritual hunger and thirst will be satisfied.

The season of Lent reminds us that we live in the desert of a culture where the presence of God is needed to comfort, teach, and guide. There is a spiritual hunger and thirst for healing and wholeness. It seems that we cannot

watch the news or read the newspaper without encountering *"a dry and weary land where there is no water."* Spiritual dryness surrounds diplomatic relations around the globe, political maneuvering in Washington, and even the witness of the church. The two great commandments to love God and love others have been overshadowed by self-serving desires to make the biggest impact and have the last word. It doesn't seem to matter if we do the "right thing" if we give in to the loudest voice. God's will has little bearing on our decision-making anymore and the needs of the least among us are simply ignored. This is spiritual dryness that chokes us as people of God.

Jesus said, *"If anyone is thirsty, let them come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him."* (John 7:37-38, NIV) This living water is God's gift to us to satisfy the kind of thirst and longing David had. This living water is available to everyone, free of charge, to sooth and to heal the dry, cracked land that wants to keep us away from God. Our challenge is to be sure that we fill ourselves with the living water and satisfy our thirsty souls. Then we have everything we need to go out and share this nourishment with others. As the Body of Christ, we are called to nourish the body of believers and provide a witness to others who seek to be satisfied. We cannot simply be content to bask in the luxury of the love God shows to us; we must carry the living water out into those dry places...to that *"dry and weary land where there is no water."*

Lent is the perfect time for us to journey out of the desert and into the oasis of God's Living Water. If we do, we will be prepared to greet the Risen Christ and carry resurrection healing to a dry and weary land.

**God bless,
Pastor Don**



Sand Springs Community Services and KIDZONE

The KidZone needs individually wrapped candy. They are assembling Easter baskets for our community kids who otherwise would not get

one. They also need Easter basket bags which can be purchased at Dollar Tree, 2 for a dollar. There will be a box in the narthex to collect the candy and bags. Sunday, February 25th is the last day we will collect them. Once the baskets are put together, the kids will take a walk up the street to deliver them to Sand Springs Community Services! What great little missionaries!



Hey Kids-

What an awesome job you did singing in both services yesterday! We continued our lessons on how to show and share God's love with the Bible story of "The Good Samari-

tan". Be sure to share God's love with your family and friends this week.

Have an great week and see you next Sunday. We will be practicing our song that we will sing on Palm Sunday.

Miss Debbie and Miss Marty



SENIORS IN ACTION!

Our belated Valentine Lunch is coming up **THIS Friday, Feb. 23rd**, in the Fellowship Hall at 11:30 a.m. Our new SSUMC members, Jer-

ry & Phyllis Rice, will be playing and singing Southern Gospel songs for our entertainment. AND if the spirit moves

us, we can sing along! Ladies... this is a catered meal by Rib Crib... no cooking required!! The cost will \$9.00 per person payable at the Lunch. Please call Max or Sharon at 918.246.5180 (another new phone number). Sign-up is required, please!

ATTENTION ALL SSUMC LADIES!!

Please join us for our annual UMW Spring Brunch on Saturday, March 3rd at 9:30 a.m.

Bring your favorite brunch item to share, and plan on some fun and fellowship.

Guest speaker will be Mr. Ron Gentry from the Tulsa University Wesley Foundation and one of his students, plus we'll also hear from some of our local UMW ladies about projects that are near and dear to their hearts to go with our 2018 UMW theme of

"Small Things...Great Happenings!"

NOTE: we will be collecting tooth brushes, socks (all sizes), deodorant, and canned Vienna Sausages to donate to Sand Springs Community Services. Questions?? Call Leesa 918-519-4946 or Judy 918-693-1279.

Hope to see YOU there !!!

Mark Your Calendar

- Sunday, March 11-Daylight Saving Time Begins
- Sunday, March 25 is Palm Sunday
- Thursday, March 29 is Maundy Thursday

Please watch for sign ups in the Narthex for the Annual Maundy Thursday program at the Family Life Center. Invite your neighbors and friends and let's continue to make this service meaningful.

- Friday, March 30th is the Choir Cantata for the Easter season. It's always a special service that closes in on the Resurrection of Christ. You don't want to miss it!

Sunday Lists

Sunday Volunteers—February 25

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: Kat Katzung
Counters: Sondra Allen & Dick Ford

Sunday Volunteers—March 4

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: Communion
Counters: Bob Barnes & Jami Warkentin

Please Keep In Prayer



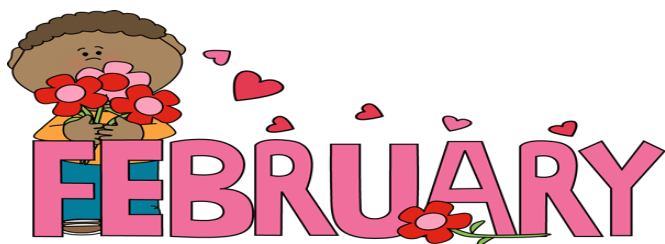
Martha Scudder, Linda Tabberer, Charlene Reeves, June Brown, BW Proft, Sue Shaw, Keri Bostwick, Greta Green, Bob & Cathy Hula, Bill & Clare Caldwell, John & Sylvia Johnson, Jewell Brown, Barbara McClintock, Montie Box, Betty & Linda Lund, Owen Johnston, Albert Kahl's mom & sister in law, Ruth Weaver,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

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.



Youth Dinners

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



Please join us for a Wedding Shower

*(come and go)
for*

Tristan Holt and Lauren Wilson

This Saturday, February 24th
2:00-4:00 p.m.
in the church narthex.
All are invited.

The couple is registered at Bed, Bath & Beyond, Dillard's, and Amazon. Their wedding colors are navy blue, fuchsia pink, and purples. You can check out their wedding website at: https://theknot.com/us/lauren_tristan_wedding2018 also.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR SAND SPRINGS UMC

Monday, February 19-Offices Closed

Lenten Lunch Set-Up

10:00am-Al-Anon-Upstairs

7:00pm-Boy Scouts-FLC

Tuesday, February 20

12:00pm-Lenten Devotional/Lunch

6:00pm-Cub Scouts-FLC

7:00pm-Praise Team Practice

Wednesday, February 21

7:30am-Men's Breakfast-Crescent Café

1:30pm-Mission to Stitch-Parlor

5:45pm-Y4Y

6:30pm-The Awakening—Youth-FLC

7:00pm-Chancel Choir Practice

Thursday, February 22

*7:00pm-Collins Karate-FLC

Friday, February 23

11:30am-SIA Valentine Lunch-F. Hall

12a-11p-Cub Scouts set up for Pinewood Derby-FLC

Saturday, February 24

7a-5p-Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby-FLC

12:00pm-Wedding Shower Set-Up

2:00pm-Lauren & Tristan Wedding Shower-Parlor/Narthex

Sunday, February 25

8:45am-Contemporary Worship

9:45am-Communion Service

10:00am-Sunday School

11:00am-Traditional Worship

2:30pm-Mission Strategy Team Meeting-FLC

Monday, February 26

10:00am-Al-Anon-Upstairs

5:30pm-4th Monday Dinner-F. Hall

7:00pm-Boy Scouts-Family Life Center

Tuesday, February 27

12:00pm-Lenten Lunch-St. Andrew Lutheran Church

6:00pm-Cub Scouts-FLC

7:00pm-Praise Team

FLC-Family Life Center

*-Not sponsored by SSUMC but welcome

Sand Springs UMC

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918-245-5955 Fax-918-245-2801

Family Life Center: 918-245-3725

www.SandSpringsumc.org

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