

The Springs



Rev. Don Tabberer

December 10, 2018



We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait

for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience."

(Romans 8:22-25)

In Romans 8, Paul writes about "groaning inwardly" in anticipation of being adopted and redeemed by God. He uses the image of the "pain of childbirth" to describe this process of waiting.

In the story of Nicodemus, Jesus talks about salvation and how it requires us to be "born again," after which the newly converted are instantly changed, as if childbirth were easy. Obviously, these stories were written by men.

Birth is painful, messy, long, and dangerous for both mother and child. It isn't just hard work for the mother, but also for the midwife and whomever assists. It is difficult for those who love the mother and wait to know that she and the baby she is birthing are alive and safe. Being born the first time is challenging enough; being born again is a mystery to us.

Dr. Ellen Blue, the Mouzon Biggs, Jr. Professor of the History of Christianity at Phillips Theological Seminary says this:

"In Advent, we think of Mary of Nazareth, who birthed Jesus. His birth and his life, which she nurtured, are decisive events for those of us who have decided to follow the way of Jesus. Mary's participation in the work of God was crucial, but God's works and God's creation are still ongoing. Humankind continues to participate in the process the

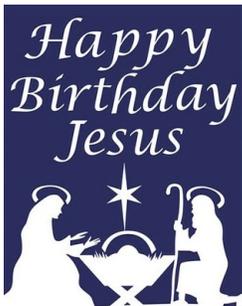
Creator began, shaping not just humanity's future, but also that of the Earth itself. The world God created cannot and will not remain static – creation continues this moment, as people choose to protect or to destroy the planet God placed in our care. How will we participate as God calls us to continue creation this season?"

This time of year is not only Advent and Christmas, it is winter, when most plant life goes dormant and some animals nestle in for a long winter's nap. In the spring, creation bursts forth with new and renewed life, full of color and vitality. It seems fitting that we celebrate the birth of Christ at this time of year. It reminds us that the world had gone cold and dark and Jesus brought new light and new life into the world just when it was needed. Jesus, God with us, started a movement of people reclaiming their relationships with God, with each other, and with Creation.

Rebirth, regeneration, reclaiming, is messy, painful, and slow. There are always opportunities for mistakes and failure. But we keep moving on. We have reached a time in our history when caring for Creation seems to be getting more important and more difficult. One of the things that I find curious is that we have managed to take a gift from God and turn it into a political football.

When God gave humanity "**dominion**" over Creation I believe he had this definition in mind: "**protectorate**." Following God's example and instructions should never be overshadowed by political bickering and corporate agenda. Caring for what God has given us to be stewards of is far more important than anyone's politics. As we consider the birth of Jesus this season and we look forward to the regeneration that follows the winter, may we also look for every way to participate in caring for God's creation.

*Trying to be a good steward,
Pastor Don*



Happy Birthday, Jesus SSUMC Christmas Program

This year's Christmas concert will be on December 16 at 6:00 p.m. The Chancel Choir, Praise Team, Y4Y, Kingdom Kids, Chancel Bell Choir and other specials will be presented. A birthday party for Jesus will follow the program. Please bring

some of your favorite Christmas goodies to share.

Joining Together for Worship

Mark your calendar for **December 30th at 11:00 a.m.** when we will combine both worship services into one again. Sunday School will still start at 10:00 a.m. We will continue to test this format for 2 or 3 more months on the first Sunday of each month which is Communion Sunday. Be sure to watch for any changes to this schedule through your newsletter, worship announcement slides, bulletin and the announcements in the narthex which scroll all week.

APPORTIONMENTS

As a reminder, Apportionments are funds that each local church is obligated to pay to the Annual Conference each year to help cover the cost of global missions. It is key to our "connectional system" that we work together with all United Methodist churches to make a difference in the world. Together we accomplish so much more than what any single church can do on its own. We are somewhat behind in our payments for 2018 and need to try hard to make up the difference by year's end. Please, consider an extra gift this year so we can make our goal of paying 100% of our 2018 Apportionments. We still need to raise \$28,920 to complete our obligation. Thank you for your prayers and your support of the church's mission in the world.

"UNDIE SUNDIES"

Every Sunday in December we are collecting new underwear and socks to be donated to the Homeless Mission – "City Lights". We need all sizes from child to adult, male and female. New, clean underwear and socks are a highly valued item for the homeless population. A small effort on our part can really make a significant difference in the lives of people who find themselves without a permanent home this winter. Also, clean, gently used blankets and clothing that can be layered will be appreciated. Donations can be brought to the church during December.



Building Fund

Please, remember that we still have a Building Fund that is needed to pay the mortgage for The Well, our building in Prattville. This facility is essential to the growth of our mission in Sand Springs and we cannot risk missing a mortgage payment. Please, if you have previously given to this fund and have stopped for some reason, consider starting your monthly contributions again. If you have never given to the Building Fund, consider including this as part of your monthly giving. If you want more information about this fund and how you can help, please contact the pastor or a member of the Board of Trustees. Thank you for all you do in ministry with our church.

Newsletter in 2019

December 17th (next week) we will do a newsletter that will cover the rest of December and all or most of January. Then on the 3rd week of each month in 2019, we will continue this format, the rest of the months events and all or most of the next month. Please, if you are submitting an article have it in the office by 11:00 a.m. on the Monday of the 3rd week of the month.



What's Going On?

How would you like to help train future doctors?

You can, by participating in the OSU Medical School Senior Mentor Program.

You may know that our own Corbit Bayliff is a student at OSU Medical School in Tulsa. He will be part of a program that begins in 2019 to help doctors learn better communications skills while treating patients. The program involves individual volunteers, aged 65 and older, agreeing to be mentors for a three-semester period. Medical students will visit with their mentors twice each semester for those three semesters. There are no physical exams; the program involves discussing medical history and developing a rapport between doctor and patient. Volunteers should be healthy for their age and do not need to reveal anything they are not comfortable with.

If you are interested in participating, there are application forms on the Welcome Desk. If you have questions, you may contact Corbit at: 913-484-8955 or corbit.bayliff@okstate.edu

SUNDAY LISTS

Head Ushers

8:45am-Amanda Honeycutt
11:00am-Eddie David

Children's Church

8:45am-Kingdom Kids
11:00am-Jami Warkentin
12/16-Becky Barnes
12/23-Debbie Schmidt
12/30-Amanda Honeycutt

Sunday Counters

12/16-Janie Moore & Kent Warkentin
12/23-Diana Pond & Jack Vest
12/30-Betty or Howard Smith & Karen Wilder

Youth Dinners, Served 6:30, Wednesdays

12/12-Seniors In Action
12/19-Priscilla Circle
12/26-Noah/Searchers

Welcome Center

2018

Harmony-Oct.
Discovery-Nov.
TNT-Dec.

2019

CIA/Pathfinders-January
Harmony-February
TNT-March
CIA/Pathfinders-April
Harmony-May
TNT-June

Hey Kids

We had a fun time in KidZone yesterday as we had Bible stories about Moses, Joseph, Jacob and Joshua.

We then made ornaments about them for our Jesse tree.



Be sure and be here next Sunday, December 16th for our final practice with Miss Cathy for our Christmas program. Our program is at 6:00 p.m. and after, a "Happy Birthday Jesus" Party. Have a wonderful week!

Miss Debbie & Miss Marty



KidZone decorating their Jesse tree

Prayer List... "The Prayer Box"

Jim & Vi McAllister, Martha Scudder, Charlene Reeves, June Brown, Jody Seaman, Mary McGowan, BW Proft, Sue Shaw, Michael Bostwick, Greta Green, Bob & Cathy Hula, Bill & Clare Caldwell, John & Sylvia Johnson, Barbara McClintock, Montie Box, Owen Johnston, Ruth Weaver, Darin Grayson, Pauline Hanigar, Frank Slane, Bruce & Mona Warren, Last Week's Prayer Chains & Unspoken Requests

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR SAND SPRINGS UMC

***-Not sponsored by SSUMC but welcome**

Monday, December 10

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

Tuesday, December 11

7:00pm-Praise Team Practice

Wednesday, December 12

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

Thursday, December 13

*7:00pm-Collins Karate-The Well

Friday, December 14

*The Well in use

Saturday, December 15

10:00am-*The Well in use

Sunday, December 16

8:45am-Contemporary Worship
9:45am-Communion Service
10:00am-Sunday School
11:00am-Traditional Worship
6:00pm-Christmas Program

Monday, December 17

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

Tuesday, December 18

7:00pm-Praise Team

The Well-SSUMC Family Life Center...Not sponsored by SSUMC but welcome

Sand Springs United Methodist Church

*PO Box 336-Mailing
319 N. Main—Delivery
Sand Springs, OK
74063*

Sunday Worship Schedule

8:45am-Contemporary Worship

9:45am-Communion Service

(Except 1st Sunday-Communion in Worship)

10:00am-Sunday School

11:00am-Traditional Worship