



“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

In the Acts of the Apostles, these are among Jesus’ final words to the disciples before ascending into heaven. The rest of the book of Acts describes exactly how the disciples carried out this mission that Jesus gave them. On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit arrived and the disciples were changed. The Church began in Jerusalem. The Good News spread throughout Judea. Then Samaritans began converting to Christianity, and they, also, received the Holy Spirit as a sign that God had invited them to be a part of his Church.

Next came the Gentiles. First it was the “God-fearers,” Gentiles who believed in the God of Abraham and worshiped him, but did not convert to Judaism. Then, it was pagan Gentiles who had no prior relationship with the God of Israel. When Gentiles also received the Holy Spirit, it became clear to the Apostles that anyone could be a part of God’s family.

The Apostles really did go to the “ends of the earth” to spread the Gospel. St. Mark went to Egypt. The Ethiopian eunuch took the gospel to Ethiopia, and the Ethiopian Orthodox Church of today traces its history to him. St. Thomas went to India and started churches there that still persist. There is archaeological evidence for churches started in China in the first and second centuries AD.

Sometimes I wonder that when Jesus told the disciples about going to the “ends of the earth,” did he have Sand Springs, Oklahoma in mind? Surely to someone living in the ancient near east, Sand Springs must seem like the most far away place in the world. And yet, through the faithfulness of our spiritual ancestors and the work of the Holy Spirit, the Gospel is alive and well, right here!

Jesus is also asking us to share the Good News of who he is and what he has done. For some of us, the “ends of the earth” might mean going to the other side of the world to preach to those who have not heard the gospel. For most of us, that probably means plucking up the courage to share our faith with a neighbor, or invite our co-worker, who has been going through a tough time, to church.

For our youth this week, the “ends of the earth” looks like Gilbert, South Carolina. Even as you read this, we are working hard to help people in need and fulfill God’s mission. My question for you today is this: What do the “ends of the earth” look like for you?



TO ALL OUR KIDZONE FRIENDS

It has been so great to be able to see everyone again. Our lessons have been on Abra-

ham and Joshua. We have learned how God was always with them and know that He is always with us too!! We have a lot of fun times planned for Kidzone-a special 4th of July celebration and Vacation Bible School starts on Sunday, July 18th-July 22nd from 6:15 [p.m.to](#) 8:15 p.m. Invite your friends to join you at the "Knights of North Castle". Register on line or use form found in the narthex on the welcome table for your VBS tee shirt.

Have a great week!!

Ms. Debbie & Ms. Marty

CHANCEL CHOIR NEEDS YOU!

Rehearsal

Wednesday at 1:30 p.m.

Do you sing in the shower? In your car? While you're cleaning? The Chancel Choir would love to have you sing with them! Come check it out on Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m. in the choir room.



Prayer Box

Bert Woodward, Dick Ford, Betty Smith, David Allen, June Wilborn, Maureen Gibson, Sylvia Johnson, Ralph Rand, Donna McLain-Hope, Betty & Linda Lund, Suzanne and Valerie Jones, Gordonna Fisher, Barbara McClintock, Montie & Betty Box, Bruce Warren

Prayer Chains And Unspoken Requests



TO OUR "KNIGHTS OF NORTH CASTLE " VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

SSUMC will host the

KNIGHTS OF NORTH CASTLE Vacation Bible School

July 18-22

6:15– 8:15 p.m.

4th & Main (18-21)

Closing: The Well (the 22nd)

**Register online
or in the narthex
for a free t-shirt.**

VBS IS BACK- LET THE FUN BEGIN!!!

We are excited to be able to have VBS again. Join us in the Caleb House on Saturday morning, July 10th at 9:00 a.m to help us get ready. Lunch will be provided.

Also on Saturday, July 17th at 9:00 a.m to help decorate and set up the sanctuary and narthex. Lunch will be provided.

Sunday, July 18th- after 11:00 [a.am](#) worship service- final preparations for VBS -

We will need to gather at 5:30 p.m. for a short meeting before the start of VBS at 6:15p.m.

We appreciate your help!!

Debbie & Marty

Sunday Volunteers

Sunday, June 27

Nursery:

9 a.m.—Katherine & Susie
10 a.m.—Katherine & Sara
11 a.m.—Debbie & Frankie

Counters:

Betty Smith & Karen Wilder

Youth Dinner for June 30:
TNT Sunday School class

Sunday July 4

Nursery:

9 a.m.—Susie & Amanda
10 a.m.—TBA
11 a.m.—Susie & Amanda

Counters:

Sondra & Trena

Youth Dinner for July 7:
Faith Circle

Sunday July 11

Nursery:

9 a.m.—Katherine & Sophie
10 a.m.—Katherine & Sara
11 a.m.—Katherine & Sara

Counters:

Howard & Jami

Youth Dinner for July 14:
No Youth

Sunday July 18

Nursery:

9 a.m.—Susie & Gerri
10 a.m.—TBA
11 a.m.—Marty & Cayleigh

Counters:

Janie & Kent

Youth Dinner for 21:
Youth volunteering at VBS

VOLUNTEER



We Need Nursery Volunteers

We have a shortage of nursery volunteers. This is an opportunity for anyone who connects with children and wants to fill a ministry need that does not take time out of your week. You can volunteer during the first service, Sunday school, the late service, or all three. We especially need you during the 10:00 a.m. hour. We would like to build a larger rotation and you just might be the answer!

You must be able to bend and stoop, pick up children and pass a background check. That's it!

Please let me know if you are willing and able. I will get you the background check form and you will be added to the rotation. Also, THANK YOU!

Tracey

Sand Springs United Methodist Church

319 No. Main St.

Sand Springs, OK 74063