The Springs



Rev. Don Tabberer

July 20, 2011



"While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son." (Luke 2:6-7)

Dear Friends in Christ.

This passage from Luke's Gospel is part of the Christmas Story we hear each year; I know you are familiar with it. What is significant about this story for me today is that I have now walked through the village of Bethlehem, I have stood in the Shepherds Field where the angels announced the birth of our Savior, and I have been to the spot believed by many to be the site of Jesus' birth. The Christmas Story is no longer a sweet tale about a baby born in a manger two thousand years ago; it is the truth about how God came to be with us — Emmanuel — and how we came to be his followers.

As we stood at the shepherds' field we talked about why God decided to send the angels to these poor shepherds. First, it was interesting to consider who these particular shepherds really were. Normally, the work of a shepherd is done from March to early November as they guide and protect their flocks while they graze. During the winter months, November – February, there would not be any flocks in the field. The shepherds who would have been found in this field on that wintry night would have been the shepherds who work for the Temple priests. These men are given the task to care for flocks sheltered in a cave just outside of town; these animals are being held for Temple sacrifice. When the animals are needed, shepherds are sent to retrieve them from their shelter and bring them to the Temple Mount. The symbolism is not lost here – these shepherds were only in that field when the angels came because they were on their way to bring a spotless lamb to be sacrificed at the Temple. It was to these particular shepherds that God sent the angels to announce the birth of the ultimate sinless sacrifice – the Lamb of God – Jesus.

Second, these poor shepherds were chosen because God knew they would be excited enough that they would be willing to share the good news with others. The angels could have announced the Messiah's birth to the priests in the Temple. But

God knew they would only conceal the information in an effort to hold onto their power or they would tell the Romans about it to gain favor with the empire. God knew who he could trust and he trusted these poor ignorant men who longed to greet their Messiah. God trusted people as common as we are to announce the good news and expect it to be spread. God's plan is always the right one isn't it.

It may seem strange for me to talk about the Christmas Story in the middle of July. Maybe it's not so strange given that our trip to Israel just happened and I have always believed that the Christmas Story should be one we remember all year long. The point of bringing this up today is that we have been given such a tremendous gift – Jesus – and this is a gift worth sharing with the whole world.

Right now our church is facing some challenges with the air conditioning in the sanctuary and the need for us to drive to the Family Life Center for worship on Sunday mornings. These challenges are really minor when compared to the enormous gift God has given us and the perfect way God has of making a plan come together. We have an opportunity to come together as a congregation and show who we really are as children of God. We have the chance to band together and meet our material challenges head-on while making this challenge work for the mission of God in our church. Let's take this chance to be more present on the south side of town and let people know who we are as the church. Let's use this time of "hardship" to show other people what it means to be faithful followers of Jesus Christ. This situation is certainly not ideal and none of us would have chosen it. The fact is that it really doesn't matter where we worship God as long as we worship God together as a congregation. Some of us may not like the idea of having worship in a building that isn't exactly "a church"; Jesus wasn't born in a church and he doesn't live in a church today. Jesus is present "wherever two or more are gathered in His name." We can gather in His name anywhere...What's important is that we gather. I pray that you will all join me for worship this Sunday at 10:30 am at the Family Life Center. I promise you will not be disappointed when you meet Jesus there.

> Shalom! Pastor Don



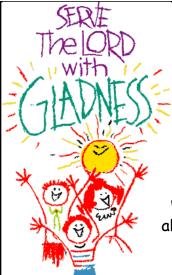
Vacation Bible School
Sunday, July 24
Thru
Thursday, July 28
6:15-8:30 p.m.
FAMILY

CENTER

LIFF



KidZone News



The big news for this week is VBS HAS BEEN MOVED TO THE FLC, 101 W.

38TH. Again, the dates are JULY 24-28 from 6:15pm to 8:30pm. There will be a class for adults so let Pastor Don know if you would like to attend. If you have questions about VBS see Debbie Schmidt or Marty David.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS! We will be moving things we need for VBS over to the FLC on Thursday night, July 21. If you have a truck and have some time to spare, please be at the church at 7pm. We will also need volunteers to help decorate the FLC next Sunday after worship. Again, extra volunteers would be appreciated. If you have volunteered to help with VBS be at the FLC on Sunday, July 24, at 5:30pm for training. We will also need volunteers on Thursday night, July 28 to help take down decorations and get everything transported back to the church.

If you haven't picked up your VBS t-shirt, please try to do so next Sunday after worship.

It will be a fun week sharing the stories of the Bible with the children in our community. So please invite your friends, neighbors and any little kid you see!

We'll see you Sunday! Stay cool!

P.S. We've raised a little over \$41 toward our goal of \$50 for the Society of St. Andrew. Keep bringing your change!

Register for Vacation Bible School on line at

www.sandspringsumc.org, or Sunday at church or call Tracey in the office at 918-245-5955.

Sunday Lists

Sunday Volunteers July 24

Welcome Center

CIA/Pathfinders

Head Ushers

Bruce Warren

Lay Reader

Amy Miller

Children's Moment

VBS Preview

Children's Church

No Children's Church at the FLC

Counters

Sheree Buttler & Jami Warkentin

Visitors Center

Mel & Norma Jones

Youth Dinner for Wednesday, July 27

No Youth-Helping with VBS

Sunday Volunteers July 31

Welcome Center

CIA/Pathfinders

Head Usher

Bruce Warren

Lay Reader

Karen Wilder

Children's Moment

VBS Wrap Up

Children's Church

No Children's Church at the FLC

Counters

Glenna Stockard & Karen Wilder

Visitors Center

Mel & Norma Jones

Youth Dinner for Wednesday, August 3

Discovery/Crossroads

Please Keep In Prayer

Thelma Bradshaw, Gene Watson, Vera Nell Boatman, Walter Speed, Rebecca Ward's Family, Irene Hueste, Jewel & Wilbur Williams, Max Schuermann, Virginia Vice, Harold Hilgendorf, Ruth Weaver, Merle Parsons, Jo Nan Allen, Jim Bostwick, Ryder Herring, Mel & Norma Jones, Don Baldridge, Barbara McClintock, Martha Scudder

Tid Bits...



Thank You...

Thank you to Ray Walters & Eldin Fisher & The Stockard men for taking care of our grounds. It is not an easy job in this heat to water, weed, mow, trim... You are doing a wonderful job and it all looks very nice! We appreciate you!!!

Thank You...

Thank you to all the volunteers who are mowing at the Family Life Center as well! It looks wonderful and we know you are working hard to keep it that way! We appreciate you!!!

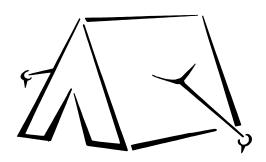
The Methodist **Fifth Sunday Gospel Singing** will be held July 31 at Epworth UMC. Begins at 6 p.m. but call due to heat. It may start later. 918-446-3516.

FOR THE KIDDOS

SUMMER VACATION WORD SEARCH: Circle the hidden words from the list below.

N	N	I	М	U	Q	S	Т	ı	F	Q	F		
Р	N	N	0	S	U	К	R	К	0	0	0	VACATION	TRAVEL
E	М	0	Н	Т	I	0	ı	S	0	S	0	TRIPS	QUIET
E	ı	Т	ı	Α	Е	N	Р	D	Р	Р	R	FAMILY	FOOD
											_	HOME	HOTEL
L	S	E	E	Т	Т	Α	S	M	S	Α	Т	MAPS	MOTEL
S	W	I	M	X	Α	E	Α	L	Т	M	0	OCEAN	INN
D	F	Α	Α	Α	٧	С	Ε	Ε	0	E	U	LAKE	REST
	V	N	Υ	N	E	Е	Α	Т	S	E	R		NEST
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E	F	Α	M	ı	L	Y	E	V	E	Υ	E	CAMP	KIDS
K	L	E	Α	R	М	L	R	R	E	Х	L	RELAX	SLEEP
Р	w	С	К	Т	R	Α	V	Е	L	Α	Α		
М	Н	0	Т	E	L	Х	E	К	Α	L	Х		
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Finish the Picture Below by Finishing the Camping Scene...



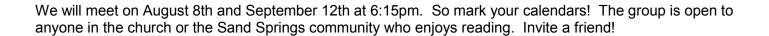
2nd Monday Book Club

Eight of us met for our 2nd Monday Book Club on July 11 and we had a great time. We managed to find a cool spot in the church, shared a few laughs, discussed the book we'd all read and learned some things about each other we didn't know.

We chose our August and September book selections. So if you can't join us in August, maybe you can make it in September. The book selections for those months are:

August: Friendship Cake by Lynne Hiton

September: The Story of Beautiful Girl by Rachel Simon





SSUMC's next mission project is set for August 13th from 9 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at Restore Hope Ministries (RHM) - 2960 Charles Page Blvd. We will be helping with replenishing, sorting, and packing school supplies to assist families in financial need. Please join us! We could use lots of helping hands! There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex and at the Family Life Center for volunteers or you may contact Jami Warkentin at 918.260.6574 or at qopokes93@qmail.com.

Also, if you can donate money or school supplies, to help with this very worthy cause, it would be appreciated! We will have boxes in the Narthex and at the Family Life Center for collection of the school supplies. Below is a list of items needed. I asked if there were any items they recommend we get and Sandy Milner said any of the writing supplies highlighted in yellow below would be great. Also, college ruled spiral notebooks and college ruled loose leaf notebook paper often get overlooked and must be purchased by RHM.

1-1/2" 3-Ring Binders

12" Ruler with Centimeters

Notebook Paper - wide & college 5" Blunt & Pointed tip Scissors

4 oz Bottle of White Glue

Ink Pens (blue, black, & red)
Broad Line Washable Markers

Compass (safety point)

Crayons (24 count)

Glue Sticks

Graph Paper

Large Zipper Pencil Bags

No.2 Pencils

3" x 5" Ruled Index Cards

Pink Erasers

Plastic Pencil Boxes

Pocket Folders with Brads

Primary Pencils with erasers

Protractors

Red Lead Checking Pencils Set of 12 Colored Pencils Spiral Notebooks -wide & college

Set of 8 Watercolors

Ziploc Bags (1gallon and quart size)

Thanks, SSUMC, for assisting those in need!

Jami Warkentin



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

CP=Childcare Provide ~ FLC-Family Life Center

Wednesday, July 20

7:30 a.m.-Mne's Breakfast—Crescent Café

10:00 a.m.-Exercise to Music-FLC

NO YOUTH

NO BELLS

NO CHOIR

Thursday, July 21

4:15 & 5:30 p.m.-Weight Watchers

6:30 p.m.-Cub Scouts Troop 601-Caleb House

Friday, July 22

UMW School of Missions

12:00 p.m.-Weight Watchers

Saturday, July 23

School of Missions

Sunday, July 24

9:00 a.m.-Sunday School

10:15 p.m.-Blended Worship

11:45 a.m.-Praise Team Practice

6:15 p.m.-Vacation Bible School-FLC

Monday, July 25

10:00 a.m.-Exercise to Music-FLC

6:15 p.m.-Vacation Bible School

7:00 p.m.-Boy Scouts 101

VBS AT THE FAMILY LIFE CENTER JULY 24-28 at 6:15-8:30 p.m.

Sand Springs UMC

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www.SandSpringsumc.org

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