



the Well Spring

The monthly newsletter of North Spring United Methodist Church



Outpourings From The Spring By Rev. Bill Radford

As I awakened this morning I realized that our house was cold. Don't get worried, the furnace is fine, we had chosen not to turn it on yet. A change has occurred in our environment not of human making but of God's making. It is fall. Each of us perceives this change from summer's heat to fall's cool crisp air differently. Some will say "Isn't it wonderful that the heat of summer has passed and the leaves will soon be so beautiful, I love fall." Others will say "It is nice to have our days a little cooler but I could certainly do without the pollen that comes at this time of year, it makes me so miserable." Still others begin feeling their arthritis aches more acutely and dread the coming winter. Some will be able to increase their outside activities because it is cooler.

Change is all around us all the time. Some changes we can control and some we cannot. We of course always have the choice of how we react to change. We can accept change as part of our life and part of living where we do, saying things like "I sure look forward to next spring when things turn green again" or "I hope we have a mild winter." We can fight change by staying inside and turning up the heat. We can rejoice in the change, which keeps our life from being boring. We can flee from change by moving to a place that never experiences fall. None of these are wrong choices. none of the people who make these choices are bad people, we are all just different. The only place where we are all equal is in God's eyes for we are all God's children and God loves all of us equally. If we want to be more like God we need to celebrate our differences, learn about the reasons for our differences and learn to love each other just like God loves us; despite of or better because of our differences.

Since I am blessed not to have arthritis or allergies I think I will try and spend a little more time outside enjoying the cooler

air taking a walk now and then. See you on the sidewalk.

I thank God for each of you and for this faith community. Our witness can be a powerful transforming agent in Blue Springs if we continue to pull together, "To build a Christian family where all are welcomed, valued, and inspired to become deeply committed Christians."

I love you all!

P.S.

Bill and Bobbie are brand new grandparents!

Roanin Joseph Vrtiska was born October 30 at 9:18 pm EST.

November 2007

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Visit Us On The Web...
www.northspring.org



**Women of the Spring
Christmas Party
December 6 at 6:30 pm**

The Women of the Spring's annual Christmas Party will be held at the Campbell's house located at 813 NE Lakeside Ct., Blue Springs, MO 64014. They live in the Waterfield development right off of Duncan Road. Phone 229-8714 for details or directions. The party will be on December 6th at 6:30 pm. The meal is potluck. Meat is provided by the WOTS, we please ask you to provide the sides and desserts. There will be a gift exchange with a \$10.00 minimum.

Come with Christmas Cheer!



Music Notes...

We are hard at work on our Christmas Production "Four Tickets To Christmas". I am very excited about this show. There will be two performances. Saturday December 22nd will be a very special Dinner Theatre. Dinner will be at 6:00 pm with the performance at 7:00 pm. Women of the Spring are preparing the dinner. (See page 8 for more details.)

The second performance will be on Sunday December 23rd at 6:00 pm.

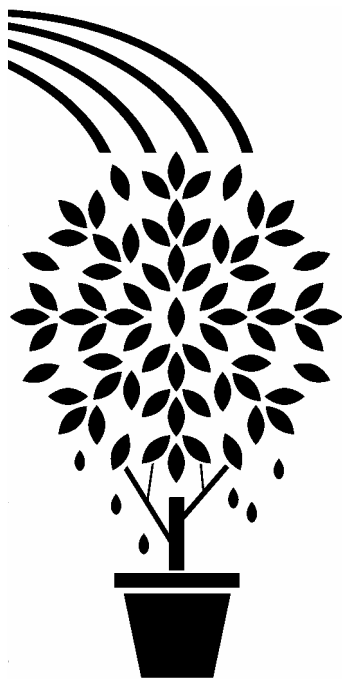
Please don't miss this!

In the meantime.....

Keep a song in your heart!

Sheila Cage
Minister of Music

Stewardship News...



Thanks to all who helped to make our Consecration Sunday Celebration a success. If you haven't turned in your 2008 pledge card, please do so as soon as possible so we can continue with our budgeting process for next year.



**For prayer requests or
to join the prayer chain,
call Grace Lakey
at 224-3098**



Christmas Cards For Sale In November...

The Women of the Spring will be offering Christmas cards for sale before and after Worship in November.

Plan on purchasing your cards at church and helping to support the Women of the Spring's ministries at the same time!



Our Members in Action

Outreach Update...

By Sherree Gorman

Even as I write this article we have several people getting ready to leave tomorrow morning for New Orleans for a weeklong mission trip to help restore houses that have been destroyed from hurricane Katrina. What an awesome privilege we have to be able to participate in God's call to bring about restoration and healing to our people that have experienced devastation of historical proportions in this country. Also, we are able to share with our brothers and sisters from Hope UMC in Lone Jack in this work, as well as the coming together of brothers and sisters in Christ from all over this great nation of ours. I know all will be truly blessed.

Additionally, by the time this newsletter arrives at your home, many of you will have participated in preparing and serving the homeless of the Kansas City area through the Lazarus Table ministry. This

has been such a terrific mission of our church and such an honor for us to be able to serve God and the people of God in this way. Thanks to every one of you that helped make this meal happen on October 27th. There were more than 30 people that participated in this Lazarus Table meal.

Also, a big thank you to all of you that generously contributed the 18 bags of the Baby Bundles for the Festival of Sharing. These bundles will be used for needy young families in the state of Missouri. They were taken to the Festival of Sharing in Sedalia on October 20th.



Don't forget that you still have an opportunity to sign up for the Habitat for Humanity project. We will be working on a house in Independence on Saturday, Nov 10, 2007 (8:30am to 3:30pm). We are looking for volunteers to help with the work. Lunch will be provided. All workers must be 16 years of age or older to be on-site. A sign up sheet will be posted soon in the fellowship narthex. Please contact Kara Taylor if you have any questions (816) 220-8465.

All of your generous gifts and talents are so appreciated and are noticed by your Father in heaven. As it says in Matthew 25:34-40:

34Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. 35For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' 37Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? 38And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? 39And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' 40And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

Contact our Staff...

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bradford@northspring.org

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carpentercage@comcast.net

Heather Sooley, Office Manager
hsooley@northspring.org



By Angie Sparks

THANKS...

We would like to send a big Thank You to the Chance Family for inviting the CIA out to their house for our Halloween Outing!

Thanksgiving Service...

We will be having our annual CIA Thanksgiving service on Sunday Nov. 18. If you are interested in providing a dish to serve our youth, please see Angie (or call Angie at 841-9252).

Revolve Tour...

Michelle and Angie took two girls, Kate McFerren and Julie Gleich, to St. Louis for the Revolve Tour in the beginning of October. There were 5 speakers talking on topics such as self-image, truth about guys, relationship with "the Father", and wanting to be "in the circle". There were also several bands including a praise and worship band, Natalie Grant, Hawk Nelson, and KJ52. We all had a really good time and are looking forward to going back next year.

CIA Calendar...

November
4- Meeting
11- Meeting
18- Thanksgiving Service
25- Thanksgiving - NO Meeting

December

2- Festival of Lessons and Carols
9- Advent Service during CIA
16- Ice Skating
23- Christmas- No Meeting
30- New Year- No Meeting

Note: All Sunday evening meetings are from 6:30 to 8 pm unless otherwise specified.

Children's Ministry...

By Karen Gleich

Well, here we are moving into Fall, and then on to Winter. It seems like it was just yesterday that we were having VBS, and the kids were singing about water.

As we move into the holiday season, I am again reminded of how fortunate we are to have so many people that are willing to help with the children. There are many churches that do not have as good of a volunteer base. Having said that, we are looking for some additional people to help, that can give our volunteers a break now and then. We have had several people volunteer to help out once a month, and that is very helpful. If you would like to help out also, please contact Karen Gleich.

CIA KIDS...

Holidays are tricky for scheduling, and I was not really good for October scheduling, so we are going to try again in November. Our first meeting will be on Sunday, November 4 from 4 to 5 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We are going to work on some mission projects, and do some planning for the year. Anyone from 3 years old through the 5th grade is welcome to attend.

Scouting News...

By Dick Witt

Cub/Boy Scout Uniform Exchange...

Dick Witt is looking for experienced Cub Scout and Boy Scout Uniforms for Scouts who would not otherwise be able to afford a uniform. If you see one at a garage sale, if you can talk the owner into donating a uniform or reducing the price to a very reasonable amount, that would be great. If you have a uniform to donate to the Uniform Exchange, please call Dick or Betty Witt at 229-7988.

Boy Scout Troop 306 holds Court of Honor...

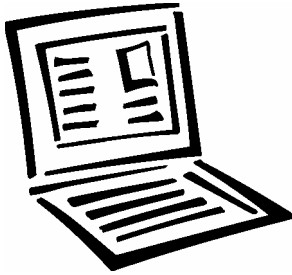
Boy Scout Troop 306, sponsored by the Spring, held a Court of Honor pot luck supper on Sunday, October 21. Almost 200 merit badges were honored with several rank advancements. Troop 306's next campout will be at Landahl Park, on Truman Road on Saturday - Sunday November 17-18. We plan to go to Fort Leavenworth for a day hike on Saturday, December 8. Call Dick Witt at 229-7988 for details.

Girl Scouts...

By Karen Gleich

Girl Scout Troop 1522

We are excited to start the year with at least six of our girls starting to work on their Silver Award. We have another two or three that will be getting started soon as well. The Silver Award is the highest award available for Cadette Girl Scouts, and will require some significant work on their part. We will be doing troop cookie training before long, so Girl Scout Cookie order forms should be showing up soon. If you have any questions, or want to join us, please contact Ronda Randolph, Toni Wiechmann or Karen Gleich.



Business Directory...

By Sherree Gorman

We are creating a Business Directory on our website of your businesses. If you would like to include your business in our directory, please send your ad to Sherree Gorman at sgorman4@att.net. Your ad will then be placed in our Business Directory on the North Spring website, along with a link to your business.



**Taco Bar
December 2nd**

You are invited to join us after church on December 2nd for a Taco Treat. We will take a love donation in support of our Kirzhach kids. Our donation last year made the world of difference to them. We received accolades from the director of the orphanage letting us know what a big difference our donation made for these children. Our money goes for tutoring and dental needs for these children. So give generously, eat abundantly and fellowship wholeheartedly for this very worthy cause!

**Next
Month**



Note:

**North Spring's Annual
Charge Conference
was rescheduled.**

**Charge Conference
will be held on
December 9th at 2 pm.**



Parish Nursing...

By Betty Witt

**Blood pressure screening will be offered
before and after worship
on November 4th.**

Don't forget to get your Flu Shot!

Please contact Betty Witt if you want to serve on the parish nursing committee, have need of health resources or have blood pressure cuffs or stethoscopes to donate.

Phone home#: 229-7988, or cell#: 582-7809.
e-mail: wb0pss@aol.com or betty.witt@sbcglobal.net



**Please submit articles
and information for the
December
WellSpring
to Heather by
Monday, November 19**

**Due to the
Thanksgiving holiday,
nothing received after
this date will be
included!**

**Leave items in the
office or e-mail to:**

hsooley@northspring.org

Walking on Water *Mission Trip to Kirzhach*

By Sherree Gorman

Our small group has been studying a book called “If You Want to Walk on Water, You’ve Got to Get Out of the Boat”. It speaks about answering the call of Jesus and actually **DOING** something about that call. Following Jesus is not for the timid. Oh, of course we are afraid. The disciples were afraid. Peter was afraid. But Jesus calls us anyway. Here is the passage in Matthew 14:23b-33:



“When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”

Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

So, why did I quote this long passage? Of course, there are dozens of points that can be made from this passage but I am focusing on one. Peter, after ensuring that it was the Lord, got out of the boat and**WALKED ON WATER!** But first, he had to get out of the boat. The boat may be comfortable and safe but it is preventing us from following Jesus. How great the fear **AND** how great the reward!!

I am offering you the water-walking experience of your life. At the end of May, 2008 we are going on a mission trip to the Kirzhach Orphanage in Russia. We will conduct a VBS there. These children are hungry for our attention and love. They are hungry to hear about the love of God for them. They’ve been abandoned. They’ve lost hope. They need a real relationship with us. Jesus is calling us.

I am coordinating the mission trip in May. Please pray about your calling to take this trip and let me know of your interest. You will need a passport. We will do some fundraisers to assist with some of the cost. If you are ready to get out of your boat and walk on water, let me know, and I will get you the details. My email address is: sgorman4@att.net and my phone number is 841-2842

I went last year and it was the most exhilarating and life-changing trip of my life. I am planning on going again and I am afraid to fly! However, I want to walk on water. Jesus said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.” And he said, “Come.”

I will anxiously await hearing from all of you that want to walk on water.

 **North Spring UMC**
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Blue Springs, MO 64014-2315
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Our Mission Statement:

*To build a Christian family where all are welcomed,
valued and inspired to become deeply committed Christians.*

Four Tickets To Christmas



*North Spring will host a dinner theatre production of “**Four Tickets to Christmas**” on Saturday, December 22 . Dinner will be served at 6 pm, play begins at 7 pm. Reserved seating tickets go on sale November 4th. Tickets will be sold before and after worship services. Cost: \$15 adults, \$8 ages 6 - 12, 5 & under free. A free encore performance of the play will be held on Sunday, December 23rd at 6 pm. Refreshments will be served after the Sunday program.*

