



# the Well Spring

The monthly newsletter of North Spring United Methodist Church



**Outpourings From The Spring**  
By Rev. Bill Radford  
(written 11/19/07)

Yesterday was a wonderful and busy day at North Spring UMC. During the morning service Ben and Jenna Doering made the commitment to join our faith community. This brings us to 28 new members that have joined North Spring UMC in the last 12 months and 11 of these have been by profession of faith. These numbers may not seem large but they are significant. During the Heartland North District Conference Charge Conference, which was held at our church, yesterday afternoon I learned how significant our profession of faith numbers are when our District Superintendent, Susan Cox-Johnson told us that, "...of the 61 churches in the district 30 have not had a profession of faith at all this year. We need to be sure we always celebrate God's blessings as we receive them.

In my sermon yesterday I challenged each of us to be more

bold and consistent in witnessing to our faith and then at the Charge Conference, Rev. Steve Cox gave our sermon and he spoke about how we can best witness to our faith in the world. Steve took his ideas from John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist Church, and said this: "There are three rules for sharing our faith." One, "Do no harm." We need to pray each day to God to help us avoid doing harm in word deed or actions to anyone we encounter. Two, "Do Good." We need to pray God show me one thing or one way today that I can do good for another. Three: "Stay in Love with God." To do this Wesley would suggest we practice our spiritual disciplines; fast, attend worship regularly, pray, study scripture, and make offerings. What a blessing to get Steve's message and pass it on.

Following the District Charge Conference I was privileged to attend our CIA Thanksgiving dinner. Thank you to all who had anything to do with us serving our youth in this unique way. More than anything else we do at North Spring this event let the youth know they are important to the congregation.

I thank God for each of you and for this faith community. Our witness is a powerful transforming agent in Blue Springs as we continue to pull together to build God's Kingdom.

**I love you all!**



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

**December 2007**

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### Holiday Time 2007

Dear Members of North Spring,

Each year, Christmas gifts are presented from the congregation to the paid staff of our church.

If you would like to contribute this year, please give it to any member of the Staff Parish Relations Committee. If you place your contribution in the offering plate, be sure to designate funds as "Staff Gift".

We need to have the money collected on or before December 16. The funds will be dispensed at the discretion of the Staff Parish Relations Committee.

Yours in Christ,

Nancy Lewis  
SPR Committee Member



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



### *Pick An Angel...*

North Spring is adopting a family for Christmas from Hillcrest.

It is a family of 2 adults and 5 children. The parents had lost custody of the children but now after more than a year of hard work they have just received all of their children back.

Please pick up angel off of the Christmas tree to purchase a gift for one of the family members. Red angels represent wants and white angels represent needs. You may join together with others if you want to purchase a more expensive item.

Please have the gift returned to the church by December 16th so we can promptly get the gifts to Hillcrest. The gift should be unwrapped, with the angel taped to it.

Thanks so much for your generous support during this holiday season. Your gifts will make this Christmas one to be remembered for a lifetime for this family!



### *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 minimum.

Come with Christmas Cheer!



Family Fun for New Year's Eve

### *Celebrate the New Year at North Spring!*

Bring your families to North Spring for bringing in the New Year together.

On December 31st, @ 7 PM, bring cards, games, and videos. Please bring a snack to share and your favorite soft drink.



## **Music Notes...**

Tis' the season . . .

Welcome to Advent! We will be singing lots of Christmas carols. You'll hear specials from Cindi Harris, Soul Food, Ann Marie Campbell, Selah, Crystal Clayton, Heidi Rater and ME!

If you have a favorite carol just let me know and we will sing it!

Tickets are going fast for our dinner theatre of "Four Tickets To Christmas". I am very excited about this show. There will be two performances. Saturday December 22<sup>nd</sup> is the Dinner Theatre and Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00pm will be an encore performance.

We are planning TWO Christmas Eve Services this season – one at 7:00pm and one at 11:00pm. Both services will have lots of special music. Soul Food will be featured in the 11:00pm service.

ALSO, in January we are forming a Gospel Singing Group spearheaded by Linda Nevels. If you are interested in being a part of this group please talk to Linda.

In the meantime.....

Keep a song in your heart!

Sheila Cage  
Minister of Music

## **Walking on Water Mission Trip to Kirzhach...**

By Sherree Gorman

Our small group studied 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.



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 will need to know of your interest in going by mid-January.

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.

## **Contact our Staff...**

**Rev. Bill Radford, Pastor**  
church: 224-9490  
home: 220-3533  
cell: 516-2729 or e-mail:  
bradford@northspring.org

**Sheila Cage, Music Minister**  
carpentercage@comcast.net

**Heather Sooley, Office Manager**  
hsooley@northspring.org



### **Second Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols...**

The CIA will be leading a worship service to initiate the Advent Season on Sunday, December 2, 2007 at 6:30 PM. After their presentations, all are invited to join in an old fashioned carol sing. Following the service, there will be a reception in Fellowship Hall where wassail and cookies will be provided.

### **CIA Calendar...**

**December 2**

Festival of  
Lessons and Carols

**December 9**

Advent Service during CIA

**December 16**

Ice Skating

**December 23**

Christmas Break  
No Meeting

**December 30**

New Years Break  
No Meeting

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

### **Children's Christmas Pageant...**

Have you ever wondered what the animals saw that wondrous night or even why they were there?

Join us December 16<sup>th</sup> during the 10:00 service for "O Come All Ye Animals" –A Children's Christmas Pageant you won't soon forget. Oh yeah, audience participation will be required so warm up those vocal chords and come early to get just the right spot in the audience!



### **Scout Sunday, Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>, Chili Supper and Pie Auction.**

February's Monthly Pot Luck will be different again this year. Scout Units sponsored by the Spring will be holding a Chili Supper Fund Raising Event. Serving will begin immediately after worship and continue until 3 P.M. Advance tickets will be available from any member of Pack 306 or 692 or Troop 306. Each ticket will cover a bowl of chili or a bowl of cheesy potato soup, a drink, and dessert. Items will also be available ala-carte. More details will follow.

Shortly after 12:00, there will be a pie auction for the benefit the Kirzhach Orphanage in Russia. We are looking into alternatives to allow more room for the pie auction and Chili Dinner.

### **Scouting News...**

By Dick Witt

#### **Troop 306 Camping News**

November's Scout Activity was a campout on the 17-18 at the Truman Road Organized Youth Group Camping area at Landau Park. Cooking, fire building, and knot tying advancement requirements were emphasized. A short non-denominational worship service was held on Sunday morning.

Their next activity will be a day trip to Fort Leavenworth on Saturday, December 8.

#### **Pack 306 Meeting News**

Pack 306 held their annual Thanksgiving Dinner on November 15, at Moreland Middle School. Decorated cakes, made by the cubs and dads, were available for auction. Many of the new Cub Scouts received their Bobcat Award, and other Scouts received various awards. Their December event will be held at the Spring on December 20. There will be a food drive for Hillcrest and a coat drive in memory of Pat Lohman.

#### **Pack 692 Meeting Notes**

Pack 692 will have their November Pack Meeting on November 29. They plan to have their December Pack Meeting on December 13, with a showing of the movie, Down and Derby. This is a comedy about the making of a pine wood derby car and holding the race. On December 16, they will hold a Christmas Caroling event at a local nursing home, with hot chocolate in Fellowship Hall later in the evening.

### **Worship Survey Update**

Thank you for participating! Early in November, the North Spring Worship Team initiated a Worship Survey. The purpose of the survey was two-fold.

1. Determine if the current worship experience is meeting the needs of the Congregation and Visitors
2. Ascertain if there are areas where the worship experience could be improved.

The Worship Team promised to share the results of the Survey with the Church Congregation. So, we are posting this note in both the WellSpring and the Church website.

There were 29 respondents to the Survey. All survey material was anonymous and kept private as was promised. The Survey Grades were as follows:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Grade</u>
Cleanliness of Sanctuary	A-
Arrangement of Chairs	B+
Altar Decorations	B+
Music Style	B-
Music Quality	B
Music Fit with Sermon	B+
Music – Overall Impact on Worship	B-
Selection of Scripture	B+
Depth of Sermon	B
Sermon Supports Scripture	B+
Sermon Provides “Take Away”	B-
Sermon – Overall Impact on Worship	B-
Effectiveness of Audio/Visual	B
Hospitality	B+
Easy to Follow Service	B+
Overall Worship Experience	B

There were many positive comments made on the survey forms as well as some items noted for improvement. The Worship Team was glad to get all of the comments. It helps to know what we are doing well as well as what we need to improve.

The Worship team has met and reviewed all of the comments and selected some of the improvement items to work on. Several changes have already been made including replacing the Worship Attendance Cards with the Worship Attendance Pads. The hope is to capture more visitor information. We have also re-instituted the visitor “mugging” program to have better follow up once we get visitor information. We have developed more attractive and concise glossy Church brochures to hand to visitors. We are working to correct the occasional out of sync condition between the music lyrics and the audio-visual.

The Worship Team will continue to work throughout the year to provide the most positive Worship experience possible. We are very grateful to those who participated in the Worship Survey. If you would like to join the Worship Team, contact Tom Gorman at [tsgorman@att.net](mailto:tsgorman@att.net).



### **Taco Bar December 2<sup>nd</sup>**

You are invited to join us after church on December 2<sup>nd</sup> 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!



## **Office Notes**

**Please submit articles and information for the  
January 2008  
WellSpring  
to Heather by  
Monday, December 17**

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

**[hsooley@northspring.org](mailto:hsooley@northspring.org)**

**Thank You Silent Night**

Oh Silent Night we thank you,  
 For in the stillness of your hours,  
 A child was born at Bethlehem,  
 Wise men believed He had mystical power.

Cruel Herod sought to slay the child,  
 Lest He should become a future king,  
 Wise men would not cooperate,  
 Many hoped that peace He would bring.

He wisely reasoned with the elders,  
 Who thought His wisdom quite fine,  
 They knew it was altogether true,  
 When He turned water into wine.

He continued by healing the sick,  
 The crippled, the lepers, the blind,  
 The scribes and Pharisees were filled with rage,  
 To kill Him some way they must find.

His critics were obsessed with Mosaic law,  
 Jesus thought His role was of His Father's grace.  
 Loving one another and turning the other cheek,  
 Were no easy practices to put in place.

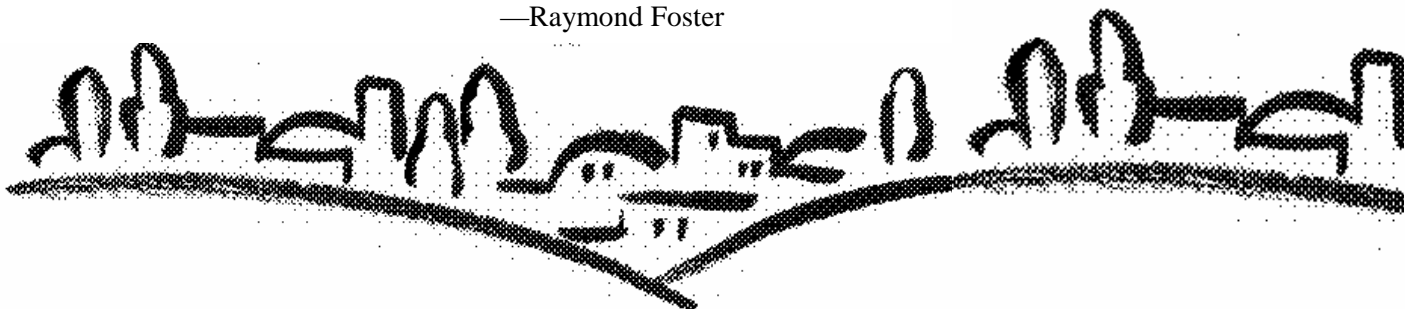
Jesus promised His disciples no easy way,  
 They would face arrest, stoning and stripes.  
 But those who endured to the end,  
 Would be rewarded with eternal life!

The disciples preached the word with vigor,  
 But their leader went to the cross,  
 With heart and soul they believed in His name,  
 In New Jerusalem they shall not suffer loss!

The trek from manger to the right hand of God,  
 Was a long, laborious trail at best,  
 By His stripes are we healed; God bless His name!  
 May we join Him some day in His rest!

Oh silent night we thank you,  
 For the love that filled the manger,  
 Has grown to be that valiant gift,  
 That guards mankind's soul from danger!

—Raymond Foster



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**Our Mission Statement:**

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



***New Look for Christmas***

Hey North Springers. We are planning on having the fellowship narthex tiled and painted before Christmas. We want to look our best for our Christmas visitors! We only have one chance to make a first time impression and our new clean look will definitely improve that first time impression. You have voted on the new tile and the Walnut color tile in the Opera style is the winner. The tile has now been ordered and it will be installed before Christmas. Then, in the winter months, the fellowship hall will be tiled with the same tile so it will all flow together.

The entire project was paid for by a grant from the district, for which we are immensely grateful. We have a few generous people who are dedicating their time and talents to do the painting and installing the tile. Wow, what a great group of people we have that go to our church! We have so much to be thankful for with our church, and now we can add one more thing. Thanks so much for your vote and keep watching for all of our improvements!