



the Well Spring

The monthly newsletter of North Spring United Methodist Church



Outpourings From The Spring

By Rev. Bill Radford

12/19/07

Well, Christmas and the end of the year are almost here and it has been a good year for North Spring. Many good ministries have been accomplished, too many to list in this space but all of us can be proud of our work as God's hands and feet in the world, the country, in the Kansas City area and even in Blue Springs. People have heard God's word of grace, mercy, and hope because of us. People have been feed, clothed, homes have been repaired and built because of us. People have been visited and comforted in hospitals and prisons because of us. People are beginning to rebuild their broken lives because of us. Youth are learning God's values in CIA and Scouts because of us. We have met many goals and continue to work on others.

One area we continue to struggle with is our financial situation. Barring a miracle we will end the year about 5 to 7 thousand dollars behind in our bills. We still hope to

meet our goal of paying our district apportionments but will not meet our goal of paying \$2,000 towards our conference apportionments. The Administrative Council is beginning to form a task force to be activated if our financial situation does not improve in the next few months. If you are called, please consider prayerfully joining in this difficult work. If you are interested in volunteering call Gary Bernhardt and let him know of your interest. This congregation is too vital to this community for us not to continue our ministry.

My challenge is for each giving unit (*household*), to try and contribute ONE DOLLAR MORE per day. We have just over 80 giving units and ONE DOLLAR MORE a day from each giving unit would generate \$28,800 in a year. This would cover our entire budget short fall and we would not only be able to meet our bills but also fund most of our existing ministries. Where can you find an extra dollar? Not, without some sacrifice to be sure, but we are called to sacrifice for God and God's work. Here are a few ideas: One, skip one 32 oz. soda pop each day. Two, give up one lunch at a fast food joint each week. Three, (I know this one hurts) skip two Starbucks coffees a week, if there are two of you it is only one each. Four, give up one round of golf a month, ouch! Five, take one week of vacation and go on a mission trip instead, this would cover the whole year for most of us. Six,

work a part-time job four hours a month or cut a neighbor's yard a few times this summer. Seven, enjoy your favorite craft hobby and make something you can sell and donate the proceeds to church. Seven seems like a good Biblical number so I will stop here. You get the idea any of us can find a way to come up with ONE DOLLAR MORE a day if we get creative for the Creator.

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!

January 2008

What's Inside...

- Page 2** Music Note
Walking on Water
Scouting News
- Page 3** Youth Stuff
Outreach 2007 Review
- Page 4** Outreach (*continued*)
- Page 5** Thank You!

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Just a Note...

Christmas Eve and "Four Tickets to Christmas" are over and what a joyous Christmas season we had at North Spring! You all did a beautiful job. Everyone worked so hard and it showed. Thank you to each and every one of you for your dedication and willingness to share your gifts.

We plan to have our next major drama production in the summer. Watch for details.

That's it for now. Happy New Year to all and keep a song in your heart.....

Sheila M. Cage,
Music Minister



Walking on Water...

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 in Matthew, (14:23b-33), Jesus calls us anyway.

If you have been praying about going on this trip and feel God is leading you, please let me know before the end of January. We must turn in a list of our travelers and start to arrange air travel at that time. The trip will take place from the end of May through early June. 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. 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

Scout Sunday Feb. 3rd Chili Supper & 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 3:00 pm. 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 noon, there will be a pie auction to benefit the Kirzhach Orphanage in Russia. We are looking into alternatives to allow more room for the pie auction and Chili Dinner.



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

Thank You!

Thanks for all your generosity this Christmas season. You all mean so much to my whole family and it is an honor to serve this congregation.

—Heather Sooley



Ice Skating...

Due to inclement weather the ice skating in December was cancelled. It has been rescheduled for January 13th. If any adults would be willing to drive to crown center with a group of enthusiastic teens, please see Angie. No ice skating skills necessary.

Lock-In...

This years lock-in is scheduled for January 20th. We will have an exciting schedule of activities planned for the evening. We will also be planning the CIA Sunday service. If you are not going to be able to attend the lock-in, but would like to participate in the CIA Sunday service, please see Angie for information. Otherwise, plan on having a great time all night long on the 20th.

CIA Calendar...

January

- 6th - meeting
- 13th- ice skating
- 20th- MLK lock in
- 27th- meeting

February

- 3rd- meeting
- 10th- no meeting
- 17th- meeting
- 24th- meeting

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

**Outreach
Year in Review...**

By Sherree Gorman

Well as we've completed 2007, it is a perfect time to look back and note what a great amount of servitude and sacrifices you all have made at North Spring. And believe me, it has been a lot! Just look.

First of all, we had a Missions Week in October. I want to thank all of you that worked on the posters and provided information for our missions. The posters looked great and we all learned lots of information about our missions!

Kirzhach Orphanage – This is the Russian Orphanage that we sponsor through Children's Hopechest, which is a Christian organization out of Colorado.

We again had all of the orphans sponsored for most of the year. We have partnered with people from Hope UMC and they have sponsored 5 of the kids. They have shown tremendous support and enthusiasm for the mission.

In early June we took a trip to Russia to conduct a VBS. It was tremendously successful and we planted seeds of faith in our kids there. We plan to return there in June '08 to water those seeds. We believe these seeds will produce a great harvest in future years!

In early December we had a Taco Bar at church that raised \$360 for our kids at Kirzhach. We also enjoyed the fellowship and tacos we shared together! In early February we held our annual Pie Auction and raised \$1568. In March we held the See's Candy sale and raised nearly \$1100 and on Easter we held the Pancake Breakfast and raised \$530 for this mission. You all are awesome for your generous contributions and I know that you

will receive a great reward in heaven for taking care of these orphans in this way.

Hillcrest Ministries – This is the program that we help sponsor that houses homeless families in an apartment building in Independence on a transitional basis as they are prepared to live independently. This is a Christian organization that does not receive government assistance.

In May we had 4 people from North Spring walk in the 5K Walk for the Homeless through downtown Independence to raise funds to support Hillcrest Ministries. These funds are one of the primary means of supporting Hillcrest Ministries.

For Christmas, you all contributed over 40 presents to the family we adopted for the holiday. This extraordinary generosity does not go unnoticed. Thanks to all of you!

Grand Avenue Temple & Lazarus Table – This is the United Methodist Church in downtown KC that ministers to the homeless sojourners there. They serve a free lunch, called Lazarus Table, each Saturday and Sunday and provide miscellaneous articles of clothing and needed items at their "boutique" store that is open on Saturday. They have a wonderful Sunday service in which the sojourners participate.

We served lunches on 2 separate occasions at Lazarus Table. We served Sloppy Joes to more than 200 people on April 29th. We served over 141 meals of chili on October 27th. Thanks to all of you that made this possible, for to do this mission it truly takes a village.

We also sent a huge collection of coats and Bibles to Grand Avenue Temple in the summer. The coats were collected as a memorial to Pat Lohman. She strongly believed in this mission and gave generously of her time and talents as a garage-saler to this worthy cause.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

Adult Mission Trip – This is a yearly mission trip of approximately one week in length to assist with labor projects for those in need.

In October, 5 people from North Spring, along with members from Hope UMC, went to New Orleans to assist with restoring a house that was destroyed due to hurricane Katrina. This was a weeklong trip, where the team was able to accomplish many assorted repairs. Thanks so much to each of you who went and to all of you who supported the team who traveled there. The devastation in New Orleans is almost unimaginable and it will be many years before the city will begin to return to fully functional.

College Connections – This is a program where an individual from North Spring is paired with a college student from North Spring, who is away from home, providing the student the support of our church family. Along with monthly notes of encouragement, we provide a care package of goodies at final's time.

This school year we have sponsored 4 college students, for which they are all very grateful.

Festival of Sharing – This is an interfaith annual festival held in October in Sedalia each year, now celebrating its 26th year. Various designated kits are collected by participating churches to help out with those in need, both inside the United States and in other parts of the world.

This year we, at North Spring, chose to collect Baby Bundles, which included diapers, blankets and baby gowns. We collected 18 of these bundles over a 6-week period in early summer and took them to St Peter's UMC to be taken

the next week to Sedalia. This was a fantastic response from all of you!

Habitat for Humanity – This is a national organization that assists the needy in obtaining a new home. Each recipient family works alongside the volunteers, thereby participating in their own situational improvement.

On November 10th, we had 7 members work on a home in Independence. They accomplished many tasks and the recipient was immensely grateful.

World Day of Prayer – This is a day set aside in early March dedicated to prayer. We individually pray in the sanctuary in 30-minute slots, filling a complete 24-hour period.

Almost all of the time slots were filled this last March. It ran from March 2nd to March 3rd. We had 2 gentlemen from the church who stayed throughout the night to ensure the safety of the prayers. We filled 41 time slots with 34 prayers. Thanks to all of you!

One Great Hour of Sharing – This is a special collection taken annually within the United Methodist Church as part of UMCOR. This money is used for disaster relief around the world, by providing food, clothing, shelter, medical supplies, medical clinics and schools. UMCOR asks people to donate the equivalent of one hour of the family's income.

We contributed \$530 to UMCOR from this collection. That will go a long ways to help those who are so desperately in need.

Benevolent Cards – These are the gift cards that North Spring has on hand to give out to travelers in need that grace our doors and have run into financial difficulties on their

journeys. These cards are good at the convenience store next to Burger King and are good for food, gasoline or non-alcoholic beverages only.

During this last we year we distributed over \$200 worth of cards to those in need. Additionally, some individuals contributed money out of their pockets, which helped with food, laundry and rent to our passersby in need.

So, as you can see, this is a great accomplishment for North Spring! This is cause for Jesus to celebrate in heaven. And this is certainly not all that North Spring has done by way of missions this year. We have not even mentioned all those things done by the CIA, or the many projects by the children's group with their noisy offerings. Also, not included in this list is the Sarah's Blankets program, which is a wonderful program where we make blankets and provide them to St. Luke's Hospice. These are only the missions that were overseen by the Outreach Team. You heard the call and you responded generously and sacrificially. Praise be to God! Let us now continue the great work we have begun.

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**THANK
YOU**

Thank You to everyone who participated in the Hillcrest Adopt-a-Family program. All 36 angels were taken from the tree. The response from the congregation was overwhelming. The mother and father have worked very hard at putting their life back together. They have recently received all 5 of their children back into custody. This congregation has gone above and beyond to make this a memorable Christmas for this family. An entire SUV was packed full of over 40 gifts (including wrapping paper!) and taken over to Hillcrest on December 17th. The Hillcrest workers were pleasantly surprised by the amount of offering we brought for this family. On behalf of the Outreach team, we greatly thank you for your extravagant giving this Christmas season.