



# the Well Spring

The monthly newsletter of North Spring United Methodist Church



## *Outpourings From The Spring* By Rev. Bill Radford

Warmer weather is making a long awaited appearance today. I doubt we are done with winter but I am grateful for the break and I hope the warm weather will bring more of you out to church this Sunday.

Many changes are taking place at North Spring, a second floor has been added to the closet at the back of the sanctuary, the carpet has been removed from the fellowship hall, and the painting of the fellowship hall is underway as I type this article. Tile should beginning to be put down on the fellowship hall this Saturday or before, and the bid for installing a rock wall behind the cross is being let this week. With a little prayer and a lot of hard work we will be ready to unveil a whole new look by Easter. All this work is being funded outside of the offering

monies. The district has given us a grant that paid for the tile, the Women of the Spring are funding the second floor of the closet and the painting, and Pat Lohman's memorial fund is going to pay for the rock wall as she requested. One of our goals in all these projects is to make the church a warm, bright, clean and welcoming place for our congregation and for our visitors. Thanks to all who are participating in anyway to these efforts.

As we complete this work one of the programs that needs help and attention is our children's ministry. Karen Gleich has been doing a great job of coordinating this ministry for nearly three years and will be retiring, at least for a while, in August. The number of people willing to teach our children has dwindled to a very small number. If we are to meet our obligation to raise our children in knowledge of our faith we need a leader to come forward and we need more teachers to come forward. You do not need to be a school teacher or even a woman to teach. As a lay person I taught youth classes for several years. It is fun and rewarding ministry to see our children grow in faith and stature.

Please pray about participating in this ministry and listen for God's call to you. The loss of the

children's ministry would be a heavy blow to the growth and survival of our church.

Whatever you do to remember this time of year and the passion of Jesus the Christ, his death and resurrection, I pray each of you will be lifted in you efforts and will feel the unconditional love of God in your life. 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!**

## March 2008

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## Women of Faith Conference in KC!

Kara Taylor is coordinating a group of us going to the Women of Faith Conference this year in KANSAS CITY (at the new Sprint Center Arena)! This year's theme is "Infinite Grace". We had such a great time last year in Des Moines and such it was such a great spiritual pick-me-up. Nicole C Mullen was a special guest then, and guess what, she is again this year in Kansas City! Also, Anita Renfroe, who is uproariously funny, will be speaking at the optional Pre-Conference. Please let Kara know if you would like to attend.

The Conference will be August 8 (in the evening) and all day on August 9. The speakers will be: Patsy Clairmont, Marilyn Meberg, Sheila Walsh, Luci Swindoll, and Sandi Patty. The Special Guests are: Allison Allen, Nicole C Mullen and Natalie Grant.

The Pre-Conference starts on Friday, August 8 and runs from 9:00am to 3:00pm. The Pre-Conference is called "I Second That Emotion". Pre-Conference Speakers will be: Patsy Clairmont, Anita Renfroe, and Jan Silvius

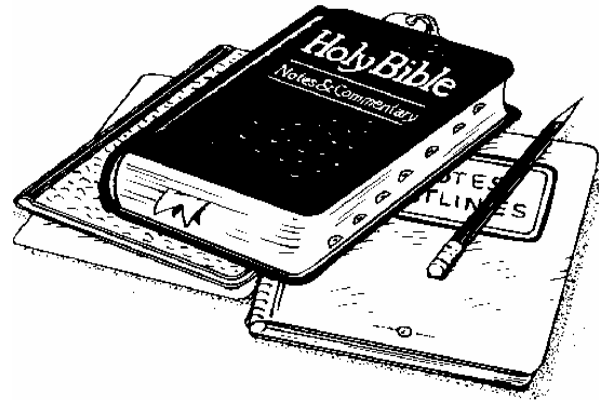
The early bird prices are as follows (if we get at least 10 women to go):

Conference & Pre-Conference Package	\$119*
Conference Only	\$65
Box Lunch for Saturday (well worth it)	\$8

(The \$119 Conference & Pre-Conference Package includes a box lunch for Friday and Saturday.)

You can pick either the Conference & Pre-Conference Package or the Conference Only, with or without the Box Lunch. Write your checks to North Spring UMC, with a footnote that it is for the WOF Conference. Make sure you let Kara Taylor know that you have done so. She is keeping track of all of the ladies and she will register the entire group with the WOF group coordinator. Please get the check in to church, no later than May 11<sup>th</sup> (Mother's Day).

This is a great opportunity for fellowship and for being blessed with thousands of other women at this event. Go ready to laugh and to cry and to be blessed.



## Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study

A New Adult Bible Study begins Sunday, March 9th, from 8:30am to 9:30am in the office narthex. The study will cover The Letter to Philemon and Colossians and be taught by Chris Condra. All adults who wish to mature in their Christian Faith are invited to attend. You do not need prior experience with Bible study and there will be no homework assignments. It doesn't get any better than that!

## Palm Crosses

On Saturday, March 15, we will be making small palm crosses for Palm Sunday. No skills necessary; it only takes a few minutes to learn. Be at church at 10 am and we'll show you how!





**Camp Information**

It is about that time again, to start thinking about going to camp. Below you will find information about the dates for the YouthFront Camp South. Some of the dates are already sold out. If we are thinking of going as a group again this year then we need to decide on what date works best for everyone. Please, look over the information and discuss what your number 1 and 2 choices might be. We will have a meeting later this month with all parents and CIA members interested in going in order to choose the best date. If you have any questions please see Angie Sparks.

Week #	Dates	Fall '08 Grades	Cost	Availability
1	June 2-7	SOLD OUT		SOLD OUT
2	June 9-14	SOLD OUT		SOLD OUT
3	June 16-21	SOLD OUT		Register with
4	June 23-28	7-13	\$340	Space for boys waiting list for girls
5	June 30-	7-13	\$280	Space for boys
6	July 7-12	MERGE**		Space for boys
7	July 14-19	SOLD OUT		SOLD OUT
8	July 21-26	9-13	\$340	Space for boys
9	July 28-Aug	SOLD OUT		SOLD OUT
10	Aug 4-9	Avail. for		

CIA Sunday School Calendar

- March 2 – No Class
- March 9 – Final class on Case for Christ
- March 16 – No Class
- March 23 – Begin Esther
- March 30 – No Class

CIA Calendar

- March 2 – Meeting
- March 9 – Meeting
- March 16 – Meeting
- March 23 – No Meeting – HAPPY EASTER
- March 30 – Meeting



# Music Notes

I don't know about you all but I AM TIRED OF BEING COLD! Let's just keep thinking warm thoughts and maybe, just maybe Spring will come.

Due to some family issues in Florida I am not going to be doing "A Night To Remember" this year for Maundy Thursday. I have an Aunt who is dying of cancer and my family and I will probably be making a trip to Florida soon. We will do this next year.

We are still in need of people who love to sing to be a part of SELAH. You don't need to be able to read music – I'll help you. We especially need men. Please let me know if you would like to be a part of this group.

In the meantime.....  
Keep a song in your heart!

Sheila Cage  
Minister of Music

## Scouting News

By Dick Witt

### Blue and Gold Cub Scout Banquets

Both Cub Scout Packs sponsored by the Spring, held Blue and Gold Banquets during the last few days of February. This year's theme emphasized the Chinese New Year. Special ceremonies were held awarding the Arrow of Light to those completing their second year as Webelos. Pack 692's Second Year Webelos will crossover into Boy Scouts in March, while Pack 306's Second Year Webelos crossed over into Troop 306 at the banquet.

If you know of any youth in first grade through high school that would be interested in joining a Scout Unit, please contact Dick Witt at 816-229-7988.

### God and Me Award

All young people in first, second, and third grades are invited to join Pastor Bill on Tuesday, March 4 at 6:30 pm to begin a God and Me program at North Spring. We will be meeting each Tuesday for six weeks. The God and Me program is designed to help children become best friends with Jesus as they tell their story of God and Me together. Children will make a GAMEBOX (God And Me Exploring BOX) to help them explore God's love with their families. The cost of this program is \$4.00, which covers the price of the student workbook. The cost of the award pin is \$8.00 plus shipping. This program is officially recognized by the Boy Scouts of America, Camp Fire USA, and the Girl Scouts of the USA as the religious awards program for youth in our church and youth in those organizations are particularly encouraged to attend. You do not have to be a member of a youth service organization to receive this award. In addition to participating in the meetings and completing family projects, youth are required to share what they have learned with the pastor before they are eligible for the award. Please call Pastor Bill at 816-224-9490 for more information or to register for the program.



### It Is Time to Order Your Easter Lilies

Lilies are \$10 each. Order cards are located in either narthex. Please fill out the dedication as you would like it to appear in the Easter Sunday bulletin insert.

## HOLY WEEK



Palm Sunday Worship Celebration  
10:00 am Sunday, March 16

Good Friday Service  
7:00 pm Friday, March 21

Easter Sunday Worship Celebration  
10:00 am Sunday, March 23

### Contact our Staff...

**Rev. Bill Radford, Pastor**  
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**Sheila Cage, Music Minister**  
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**Heather Sooley, Office Manager**  
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**Infinite Grace**

**The infinite grace that adorned the cross,  
Resembled infamy and shame!**

**Flanked on either side by a criminal,  
The Master died in His Father's name!**

**As His own life painfully ebbed,  
He heard a penitent thief to say,  
Remember me when You enter Your kingdom,  
A thief was pardoned and sanctified that day!**

**By the gentle voice of the Prince of Peace,  
Whose kingdom is not of this world,  
The cruel power of pagan Rome,  
Could not His final victory imperil!**

**In only a few more days He would ascend,  
To the Father Who sent Him to earth,  
By the loving care of the maiden, Mary,  
Who delivered the Son by Immaculate Birth!**

**Though He walked the earth as mortal man,  
He was in fact quite divine!  
His many acts of mercy and healing,  
His holy mission quite clearly defined!**

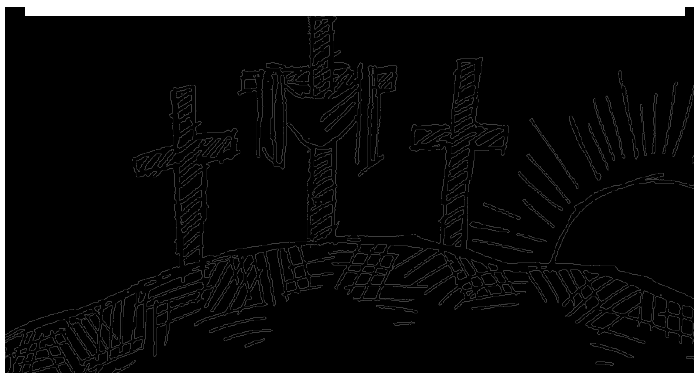
**Ere He left to rejoin His Father on high,  
He told the eleven to love one another,  
That's the sign whereby the world may know,  
Disciples trusted the Son, the Father and no other!**

**He bade the disciples tarry at Jerusalem,  
Until the Holy Spirit arrived,  
It came with both power and glory,  
And caused them all to prophesy!**

**Finally He said as I was sent,  
So in truth do I send you,  
To make disciples throughout all nations,  
This church with mission do I endue!**

**Those who believe and labor ceaselessly,  
To build a world-wide, vibrant church,  
Will be rewarded by life eternal,  
When the Savior returns to earth!**

**Raymond Foster**



**I Have a Dream for the Kirzhach Kids**

by Sherree Gorman



I have a dream that one day these children will rise up and live out the true meaning of the verse: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

I have a dream that one day these children will know the full measure of God's love for them.

I have a dream that one day these children will not feel isolated and alone but will experience the joy of friendship and family that comes from God, their father, and from their brothers and sisters in Christ.

I have a *dream* today!

I have a dream that one day these children will be transformed from living a life full of hurt to a life liberated by grace.

I have a dream that one day these children will experience the freedom from striving for perfection that can never be achieved to walking in God's plan of grace.

I have a dream that one day these children will not let the fear of the future hold them but will move forward with God's breath of love.

I have a *dream* today!

I have a dream that one day these children will not be filled with despair but will be overflowing with hope, as precious children of God.

I have a dream that one day these children will escape the bonds of worrying what others think about them to flourishing in the joy of being who God made them to be.

I have a dream that one day these children will find their wings and will soar to heights not limited by the imagination.

I have a *dream* today!

And God is in the business of fulfilling dreams.

Let us not wallow in the valley of despair, I say to you today, my friends. And so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the Christian dream. It is the dream of Jesus for all of us. It is from him who gives us the gift of faith and hope and love, but most of all, love.

***My Prayer for North Spring***

(Prayer by Flora Siegfried)

Submitted by Sherree Gorman

*I read this prayer from Flora Siegfried for her church in Florida. I am offering this prayer also for North Spring.*

“O Lord, help us to understand the church. We are the body of Christ and individually members of it. The church is not so much made up of saints as it is sinners. It is not so much made up of those born again as it is those being born again. It is made up of different people with different problems, as well as different gifts.

The church has not yet arrived. It is on the road. We are not tourists, but pilgrims. It is not a club or a business, but a fellowship in mission. It is not for those fully qualified, but rather it is made up of those who recognize their own unworthiness and the full sufficiency of Christ.

The church rests not upon our merit badges, but with the grace of God. Discipleship does not earn Your grace. Discipleship is our faith-response because of Your grace to us in Christ.

O Lord, help us to understand that the church is not perfect. It is made up not only of the mature, but also the maturing as well as the immature. It consists not only of the committed, but also of the semi-committed as well as the seemingly uncommitted. It includes not only the consistent but also the sporadic as well as the erratic. It is composed not only of the hot, but also of the lukewarm as well as the cold.

O Lord, pour out your Spirit on us according to our need. Sustain the hot, heat the lukewarm, fire up the cold. Help us to be the church. Grant us the grace that we may run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the Pioneer and the Perfecter of our faith.

Amen.”

Love in Christ,

***Sherree Gorman***

***Holy Week Lectionary Readings*****March 16, 2008****Sixth Sunday in Lent  
(Passion/Palm Sunday)****Liturgy of the Palms**

Matthew 21:1-11

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 (UMH 839)

**Liturgy of the Passion**

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 31:9-16 (UMH 764)

Philippians 2:5-11

Matthew 26:14-27:66

or Matthew 27:11-54

**Monday of Holy Week**

Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalm 36:5-11 (UMH 771)

Hebrews 9:11-15

John 12:1-11

**Tuesday of Holy Week**

Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalm 71:1-14 (UMH 794)

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

John 12:20-36

**Wednesday of Holy Week**

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 70 (UMH 793)

Hebrews 12:1-3

John 13:21-32

**Holy Thursday**

Exodus 12:1-4 (5-10) 11-14

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 (UMH 837)

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

**Good Friday**

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Psalm 22 (UMH 752)

Hebrews 10:16-25

John 18:1-19:42

**Holy Saturday/Easter Vigil**

Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21

Romans 6:3-11

Psalm 114 (UMH 835)

Matthew 28:1-10

**March 23, 2008****Easter**

Acts 10:34-43

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 (UMH 839)

Colossians 3:1-4

John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10

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*Welcomed, Valued, Inspired!*



You have the opportunity to participate in the World Day of Prayer during Lent this year. It will start at 3pm on Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup> and end at noon on Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at the church. You may sign up for a 30-minute prayer slot or multiple slots if you feel led. Also, you may sign up to stay at the church during the overnight hours for added security. What a wonderful way to spend quality time with God during this Lenten season!

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