



the WellSpring

The monthly newsletter of North Spring United Methodist Church



Outpourings From The Spring

By Rev. Bill Radford

By the time you receive this issue of the *WellSpring*, spring will have arrived. What a wonderful time of year has come forth from the cold and snow of winter. On Easter we celebrated the resurrection of Jesus the Christ. The whole earth shows us examples of resurrection as the grass, which seemed dead for the last few months, comes back to life and the trees, which have been so barren, put on new leaves. Let us all join with nature and come back to life with renewed energy and renewed spirits.

Our new tile floor in the fellowship hall was used for the first time, appropriately enough, as the foundation beneath our Tuesday morning Bible study. I want to give a big "thank you" to all who participated in this major remodeling effort. First, to the outside groups we host: Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Early Head Start program, Blue Springs Theater group, and Waterfield Village Homes Association Board.

It is because of our radical hospitality in hosting these groups without charge that we were awarded an Emerging Ministries Grant. The grant paid for the material to complete the tile project in the narthex and fellowship hall. Second, I want to thank all the people from our congregation and scout programs who volunteered their labor, food, and encouragement week after week. I could not believe the number who showed up on a Saturday to grout and clean the tile - over 30 people. What I thought would be the longest and toughest workday was finished by noon. What miracle!!! Thank you all!!

Change brings energy and another change that has occurred recently was in the pricing policy for weddings for people outside our congregation. Since this change a mere two months ago, every couple that asked about having their wedding at North Spring has booked the church. This is a huge change from my first 18 months at North Spring when not one outside wedding was scheduled. It is my hope and prayer that this ministry will increase our visibility in the community in a positive way and bring more unchurched people to our building and maybe eventually into discipleship. We will need people to help with the sound booth, to clean up afterwards, and to be wedding hosts when I am not presiding at a wedding. Each of these will be paid positions. See me if you have an interest in

participating in this new and renewed ministry. We held our first outside wedding on March 15 and have six more booked so far for the rest of the year. These weddings will generate a new stream of revenue for our church as well as the possibility of new members.

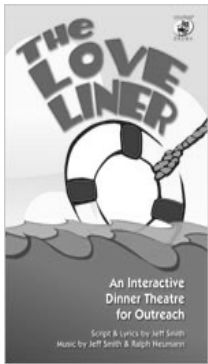
Whatever you do to remember this time of year and the passion of Jesus the Christ, his death and resurrection, I pray each of you will be lifted in your efforts and will feel the unconditional love of God in your life. I thank God for each of you and for this faith community. Our witness is a powerful, transforming agent in Blue Springs as we continue to pull together to build God's Kingdom.

I love you all!

April 2008

What's Inside...

- Page 2** Music Notes
Paper Shower
- Page 3** Youth Stuff
Children's Ministry
- Page 4** Poetry Page
Meeting Notes
Words of Thanks
- Page 5** Olympic Training
- Page 6** Coming Events
- Page 7** Mother Daughter
Banquet 2008



Music Notes

Our Christmas Dinner Theatre was such a huge success that we are going to do another one this summer. "The Love Liner" is an interactive dinner theatre production that takes place on a cruise ship in 1976. The audience are the passengers of the cruise, there to eat dinner in the dining hall and see a show.

I will be having auditions at the church on Monday, April 7th and Tuesday, April 8th at 7:00pm. The performance dates are June 27th & June 28th. Rehearsal will be on Tuesday at 8:00pm and Saturdays at 10:00am. For more information about the show and cast needs please visit our website www.northspring.org.

WE NEED MEN!!! I know there are men in our church who can sing and we need you in Selah. Selah sings one to two Sundays a month and we practice every Tuesday night at 7:00pm. You don't need to know how to read music, I'll teach you. **PLEASE, PLEASE CONSIDER BEING A PART OF THIS GROUP!**

Keep a song in your heart!

Sheila Cage
Minister of Music & Drama



The deadline for submitting items for the May WellSpring will be Monday, April 21.

Please have all articles and information turned in to the office before this date. Contact Heather at hsooley@northspring.org



April Paper Shower

Help the church by donating frequently used paper (and other) products. Please bring items anytime in April to the bin in the Fellowship Hall narthex. Quantities beyond what we can reasonably use will be donated to Hillcrest Ministries. Thank you!

Suggested items:

- Paper plates (any size)
- Disposable soup bowls
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Kleenex
- Hinged-lid containers (for "carry-out" food)
- Food storage bags (zip top)
- Copier paper
- Trash bags (55 gallon or 13 gallon)
- Liquid dish soap
- Automatic dishwasher detergent



Easter Celebration

By Angie Sparks

We decided that the CIA members were getting a little too old for an Easter egg hunt. This year in order to celebrate Easter we played an exciting game of "Who Wants to be a Candy-aire". CIA members had the opportunity to compete for candy instead of money. They were placed in the "hot seat" and asked a variety of questions about the days leading up to and including Jesus' death and resurrection. Some of the questions included, "who denied Jesus?" and "How many pieces of silver did Judas receive for betraying Jesus?". Some harder questions were, "Who were the first people to see Jesus' tomb empty?" and "What was the name of the place where Jesus was crucified?". The kids were allowed their three lifelines. They were able to ask the audience, which included the rest of the CIA. They were allowed to have the question be multiple choice. And they were able to "phone a pastor". Nearly every contestant used the option of "phone a pastor". This option helped to earn the kids quite a bit more candy. It was a great way to learn a little more about the events of Holy Week.

CIA CALENDAR

April

- 6th- Meeting
- 13th- Meeting
- 20th- Meeting
- 27th- Meeting

May

- 4th- Meeting
- 11th- Mother's Day -
No Meeting
- 18th- End of Year Bash
- 25th- Memorial Weekend -
No Meeting

generally a one week program aimed at bringing children closer to God in a fun, summer setting. If you are looking for a short term commitment, this is a great opportunity. If you would like to help with VBS, please talk to Kara Taylor or Tracey Mulholland.

We also have a joy in that Kara Taylor has stepped up to become the Children's Ministry Chair effective September 2008. I am sure that Kara will do a great job, and hope that you will keep her in your prayers for the Children's Ministry program.

We were hoping to have more people willing to join the rotation to allow us to accommodate all of our children. Since we don't have as many people as we need, we will be making a few changes. During the church service, the preschoolers will be dismissed to a class, and the Kindergarten through 3rd Grade will be dismissed to another class. The fourth and fifth graders will remain in the sanctuary and worship with their parents.

If you have been considering working with the children, we are still looking for help. Please contact Karen and let her know.

Thanks for all of your support and prayers for this ministry.



Children's Ministry

By Karen Gleich

Well, we have had articles in the newsletter, announcements in church, congregational meetings, and a sermon on the topic, and we were able to get one person willing to join our teaching rotation during the church time, and three people willing to teach one Sunday a month, two VBS Directors, and a new Children's Ministry Chair.

First, the joyous news that we have people willing to head up Vacation Bible School (VBS). We will set a date for VBS later this month, and let everyone know when it is. VBS is



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

Open The Door

Quite near is an angel you cannot see,
Should he happen to knock on your door,
Be sure to invite him in for a spell,
He's actually knocked a few times before.

Just then you didn't hear the knock,
But now that he's inside,
You can catch up on giving thanks,
Let him know you are filled with pride!

That the Creator of life directed him,
To stop and pay you a call,
Perhaps his pleasant demeanor,
Will your reluctant soul enthrall!

Renounce the wiles of the world,
And give the Savior full control,
Newness of life will bless you,
You'll ne'er give the new for the old!

The old promised only disappointment,
The new looks upward with faith,
The Savior is your daily companion,
You begin to know the meaning of grace!

Grace purchased at an awesome price,
Atop Golgotha's gruesome hill,
The picture duly dulls our senses,
But God's purpose it fulfills!

How dearly did the Father love us!
He gave the grandest thing He owned!
The life of His only Son!
That believers may have a home!

With reverence we thank both Father and Son,
For both their vision and the gift,
Of a home that endures forever!
And even now our spirit lifts!

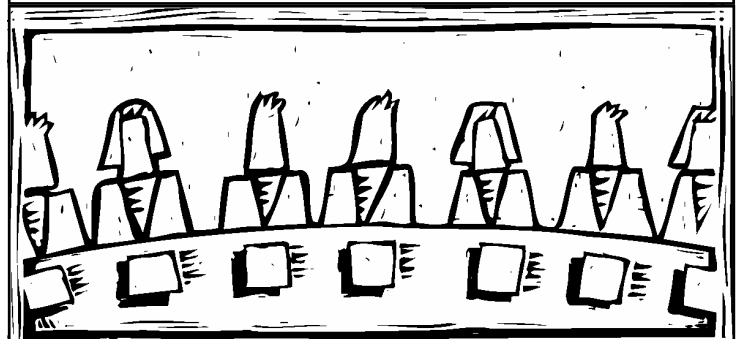
To those shores of sweet deliverance,
Where eternal rapture dwells,
With the souls of departed loved ones!
Such joy no mortal tongue can tell!

—Raymond Foster

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP



North Spring's United Methodist Men's group will meet the first Saturday of each month at 8 am at the church for fellowship, breakfast, devotions, and planning purposes. Our next meeting will be April 5. All men and boys of North Spring are invited to attend.



BOARD of TRUSTEES

The NSUMC Trustees will meet during Sunday School hour on Sunday, April 6 at 8:30 am. All members of the Trustees should make plans to attend.



Thank you all for the meal and prayers sent my way in the death of my sister-in-law.

—Maribeth King

"Olympic Training"

Submitted by Sherree Gorman

A sermon by

The Rev. Keenan Kelsey (Edited)

February 19, 2006

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

²⁴ Do you not know that in a race the runners all compete, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win it. ²⁵ Athletes exercise self-control in all things; they do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable one. ²⁶ So I do not run aimlessly, nor do I box as though beating the air; ²⁷ but I punish my body and enslave it, so that after proclaiming to others I myself should not be disqualified.

THE APOSTLE PAUL uses a lot of athletic imagery to talk about the Christian life. "All the runners run." he says. "We do not run aimlessly." He uses similar language in his letter to the Galatians, and in Hebrews, and in his writing to Timothy.

Paul's sports talk is actually quite surprising. It is true that in first century CE, spectator sports were an important part in the life of every Greco-Roman city. But to Jews, to Jesus believers, such games were anathema because they were frequently associated with the worship of pagan deities, especially emperor worship. Athletes would often compete naked. Gambling on the outcome of the contests would have been as addictive then as now. A great deal of brutality and bloodshed also occurred during these games.

Corinth was among the cities with all the necessary facilities for every kind of sport. There they held the Isthmian Games, second only to the Olympic games. Competitions included foot races, chariot races, horse races, boxing, wrestling, discus and javelin. Winners were held in high esteem. The most popular had bronze statues made of

their likeness.

But Paul is a guy - right? Most guys are sports fans. Paul was no different. So he uses images from sporting events to help him make his point. He uses sports analogies to encourage the Corinthian Christians to have the same kind of discipline, determination, and endurance that athletes have, to confront and even embrace the emotional and spiritual demands of training to follow Christ.

Athletes certainly offer excellent models of the patient, determined, rigorous struggle to achieve. The Olympic athletes offer us ample evidence of this. So many of the stories tell of the struggle. Russian figure skater Evgeni Plushenko said, "If you want to believe in something, you must also believe in the struggle it took to get there... When I was 4," he said. "I saw a competition and said to my mum, I have to be there." Never mind that he and his brother spent much of their childhood collecting bottles to sell so the family could eat, or that at age 11, the state took him 1000 miles away from that family to train him to skate. He earned Olympic gold in 2006.

Instead of skating, Paul used metaphors from running and boxing. No aimless jogging or shadow boxing for him. When he says, "I punish my body and enslave it" he referred to the hard discipline of training rather than a masochistic routine. He urged the Corinthians, as he urges us, to a measured pace, one with resolution or better translated "patience or endurance." It is not a patience that can sit down, bow its head, let things descend on it, and passively endure until the storm subsides. This is an active patience that does not follow the easy path, nor does it ever give up.

Paul is calling us to understand the prize we are working toward. It is not necessarily the Olympic gold that he had in mind. Paul says these athletes compete to receive "a perishable wreath." We think of the beautifully woven laurel wreaths given to early Greek winners, but Paul's metaphor becomes especially vivid when I tell you that at the Isthmian Games in Corinth winner wreaths were made out of withered celery. That was first prize at the Isthmian Games! I hate to think what the second- and third-place awards were like!

Paul had in mind the prize of a faithful Christian life, a process of being shaped and formed more and more into the likeness of Jesus Christ. And in the end, he talked about the final imperishable goal of eternal life with Christ, in the arms of God. Paul calls us to a life that transcends individual achievement, a life informed by God's great love, which holds purpose and strives for justice. He calls us toward a transformational life lived for and in the glory of God.

Spiritual discipline, spiritual training, is a win/win situation. It is a way to think differently, then to act differently. You are being invited to imagine the best self you strive to be. Then you are being offered the opportunity of training and exercise to hone, deepen, and enrich your experience of God and self. Are you ready to sign up?

Take the Olympic journey through training, strength building, perseverance, hope, and unity. The Kirzhach Mission Team is starting their Olympic journey and will encourage the kids at the orphanage to take their own Olympic journey with Christ. This journey is not an easy one but the rewards will last for an eternity!

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

Get Your T-Shirts

The first thing you must do on your journey to becoming an Olympic athlete is to believe that such a thing is possible. The first thing you must do on your Christian journey is to believe in the redeeming grace of Jesus Christ. Therefore, the theme word of our journey is "Believe". We have uniquely designed our Believe t-shirts to represent this journey. The names of North Spring UMC and Hope UMC, who is a partner with us on this journey, are proudly displayed on the shirt. Be watching for the opportunity to purchase one or more of these shirts as we take this journey together.



Mark Your Calendar!

The Women of Faith Conference will be coming to the Sprint Center in Kansas City this August 8th and 9th! We MUST have at least 10 ladies in attendance in order to get the early bird special rates (deadline to submit payment is May 11th). Conference & Pre-Conference Package (Premium Seating w/ 2 lunches) = \$119; Conference only = \$65; Box lunch for Saturday = \$8. For more details, contact Kara Taylor at 220-8465 or nrg2at@comcast.net.



10 MINUTES THAT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE!

Do you have high blood pressure? Are you more than 30 pounds overweight? Are you male?

If yes, YOU may want to consider being screened for abdominal aneurysm risk. Life Line Screening screens the abdominal aorta for aneurysms as warning signs are vague and if ruptured, they are 80-94% fatal.

10 MINUTES THAT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE!

Do you have high cholesterol? Do you smoke? Do you have a family history of stroke?

If yes, YOU may want to consider being screened for stroke risk. Life Line Screening screens the carotid arteries as up to 75% of all strokes are linked to plaque build up in the carotid arteries. North Spring United Methodist Church is hosting a screening on Monday June 2nd. Call 1-800-324-1851 for more information or to pre-register. The cost of this screening is \$45 or \$119 for the vascular package/\$129 for the complete wellness package.

Other wellness tests can be done also. Look for more in the next newsletter or on pink flyers posted around the Church.

Betty Witt, RN, BSN
Parish Nurse



Lost and Found

A box of items found around the church has been established in the office. If you have misplaced anything recently (or maybe not that recently) stop by the church to search for your items. From this time forth, items remaining more than two months will be donated to an appropriate charity.



Summer Mission Trip

Please prayerfully consider joining a group from Hope UMC and North Spring this summer on a most unique mission trip experience. Destination: Greensburg, Kansas which was devastated by a tornado 2 years ago. Dates: June 22-28 Estimated costs \$150 per person. See Amy Gragg or Pastor Bill if you would like to participate in this mission trip opportunity.



North Spring UMC
601 NE Jefferson Street
Blue Springs, MO 64014-2315
Phone(816)224-9490

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**Eighth Annual
Mother/Daughter Banquet
Saturday, May 3rd
6:00 pm-Dinner served 6:30 pm
Adults \$15
Children 4-10 yrs. \$10
Stein Mart Fashion Show
Door Prizes
Silent Auction on Accessory Items
Tickets available April 6th from
Women of the Spring**

visit us on the web @ www.northspring.org