



# the Well Spring



The monthly newsletter of North Spring United Methodist Church



## Outpourings From The Spring

By Rev. Bill Radford

Spring must be here - I had to cut my yard twice this week. There is energy that is resurrection-like in our congregation with new people coming and not just attending, but joining our faith community. Despite our pledges being down about 15% this year our actual giving has increased. Unfortunately, so have many of our costs and we are still short of meeting our bills, let alone our budget. But there is always hope!

Each of us is going to receive a check soon (one we did not plan for) in the form of an economic stimulus rebate from the federal government. I know the government's hope is that all of us will run out and buy some stuff which will give businesses more income and, hopefully, the

businesses will hire more people. I have no intention of disrupting our government's plans, but I have a small suggestion and a challenge to offer each of us at North Spring.

This is my suggestion, hope, and dream: There are 101 giving units (families and individuals who regularly contribute to the offering) at North Spring. If each giving unit receives an average of \$900 from the government and each tithes (gives 10%; see Numbers 18:26 and 2 Chronicles 31:5), the church would receive \$9,090. This amount of money would go a long way towards helping us achieve a balanced budget and continue our ministry in Blue Springs and beyond.

Here is my challenge: Bobbie and I will tithe our rebate of \$1,200, as we do all our income. And we will contribute an additional 5% of our rebate for every 10 other giving units that tithe their rebates. If every giving unit in the church tithes, we will give 60% of our rebate, or \$720. If you want to help build God's kingdom in this way, just put your check in the offering and mark it "rebate tithe." We will keep track of each offering and let you know how this challenge is working as the year progresses. Maybe some others will consider joining Bobbie and me in giving more than the minimum 10% and we could raise \$20,000 or \$30,000, insuring

the financial solvency of our church for this year and into next year.

I look forward with great anticipation to the time when discussions of money at North Spring revolve around how we can best use the bounty of extra money to serve the needy and advance God's kingdom, instead of how we can meet the budget. Giving is not about meeting the budget. It is about honoring God's desire for all of us to be givers and lovers of our brothers and sisters. We as Christians are no longer of this world but we still have to live in this world. And paying the bills is part of this world.

I love you all!

May 2008

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# Music Notes

“Just whistle a happy tune....”

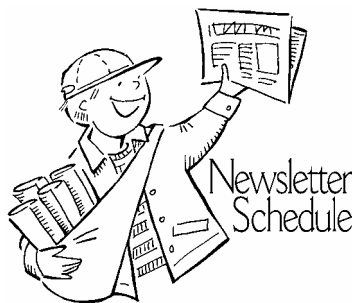
There is lots going on at North Spring. “The Love Liner” is shaping up to set sail on June 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. We have our cast and are starting rehearsals. This will be TWO dinner theatre nights. I know that Debbie Thatcher and Nancy Lewis are going to be needing lots of help. More information will be coming in the next newsletter on how you can get your ticket to board “The Love Liner”.

On Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Bill will be at conference and we will be having a very special service. We will be focusing again on “Worship and the Arts”. It will feature music, instrumentals, solos, The Dancing Disciples Ballet Troupe and a drama piece from “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat” from the Blue Springs City Theatre. This will be a service you won’t want to miss.

I’ll say it again, **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!

Until next time keep a song in your heart!

Sheila Cage  
Minister of Music & Drama



The deadline for submitting items for the June WellSpring will be Wednesday, May 21.

Please have all articles and information turned in to the office before this date. Contact Heather at [hsooley@northspring.org](mailto:hsooley@northspring.org)



## HILLCREST WALK

It is that time again for the Hillcrest Walk for the Homeless. We have had several people walk in the past 5 years. If you are interested in walking, go online to register at [www.hillcrestministries.org](http://www.hillcrestministries.org) and pick Eastern Jackson County. This year’s walk will take place at 10am on May 17th. Registration and donuts start at 9am. The walk is 5K (really not that long) and will take less than an hour and a half to complete. Sherree Gorman will be our team captain for this event. The walk is not only fun, but also it is so vital to the success of this important ministry.

If you are unable to walk this year, please sponsor a walker. You can donate online under the registered walker.

If you are unfamiliar with Hillcrest Ministries, here is some information about them. There are now four associations that provide transitional housing for the homeless in the Kansas City area. The one that our church supports is in Independence and is called Eastern Jackson County Hillcrest Ministries. It is located in a large old home that has been converted into several apartment units. The program provides a Christian environment that helps homeless families become self-supportive, self-reliant contributors to society. It is designed to move families from homelessness to self sufficiency by providing rent free and utility free housing for 90 days in a fully furnished apartment, life skills training and professional services such as haircuts, dentistry, medical treatment, GED training, car repair, bill reduction/consolidation. Many families have graduated and their lives have been changed completely as a result of this program. Hillcrest boasts a 95% success rate of graduate families remaining self sufficient after graduation.

If you have any other questions, please contact Sherree Gorman at 841-2842.



**Meeting information**

This past month the CIA invited the youth group from Hope UMC to come and join us. The combination of the two youth groups was such a success, that we decided to continue to meet together every week. We met at the Lunar Bowl for a little friendly competition. The turn out was great! We are going to continue to meet at least once a month during the summer so the kids can still get a little fun time and some ongoing devotional time. These dates will be released at a later time.

**YouthFront Camp**

The time that seems to work the best for everyone is July 21st through 26th. This time is for 9th to 13th grades only. This time will exclude the middle school grades, however the only other time available is the week before the 4th of July, which did not work out for many kids. The cost for this week is \$340. If any one is interested in going, then please see Angie for more information. The website for the camp is [www.youthfrontzone.com](http://www.youthfrontzone.com)

**Seniors**

This year we have one active CIA member graduating from high school. Nick Reynolds is a senior and graduating from Oak Grove High School. Congratulations to Nick! IF there are any other members of the congregation that will be graduating from high school, college or a graduate degree please let Angie Sparks know so that you might be recognized.

**CIA CALENDAR**

**May 4**  
Meet at North Spring

**May 11**  
No Meeting Mother's Day

**May 18**  
End of Year Bash Location TBA

**May 25**  
No Meeting Memorial Weekend

flood. During the noisy offering time, the children will be going through the sanctuary with small buckets collecting change to help put together our buckets. Keep a watch on the bulletin board to see how many buckets we can put together.

Thanks again to all of you for all of your help and prayers. Our children's ministry program continues because of the continued support of the congregation, and our dedicated teachers. THANKS!

**Children's Ministry**

By Karen Gleich

Well, this is our first month back to business, with the children coming back during church. So far, so good - we'll just keep going. If you are interested in helping with the children during the church time, or during the Sunday School hour, please let Karen Gleich know.

For the last two months, our children were supposed to be voting with their noisy offering money to determine what to do with the noisy offering money previously collected. The votes are in, and the children are buying a heifer through the Heifer International Project. In addition, the money collected during the voting (approximately \$55.00), will go the United Methodist Church for their work with children in this country.

Currently, our Sunday School class is studying Noah's Ark. Along with that theme, our children are collecting money during the noisy offering to put together "flood buckets." Flood Buckets are five gallon buckets with the supplies needed to help clean up after a



Vacation Bible School has been scheduled for Sunday, August 3 through Wednesday, August 6. Sunday's activities will be 4:30-7:30pm and Monday-Wednesday's activities will run from 6:30-8pm. Watch for more information on themes and we will also be putting out a call for some recycled supplies and other things needed. Please consider being a part of a wonderful experience. Please see Tracey Mulholland or Kara Taylor if you are interested in helping.



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

### ***Prayer Partners for Kirzhach Mission Team Needed***

We are again traveling to Russia to conduct a VBS at the Kirzhach Orphanage. The trip will be from June 3<sup>rd</sup> to June 14<sup>th</sup>. We are praying that the trip will go well and the kids will get to know Jesus Christ and grow in the faith through the Holy Spirit. This is our calling to go out into the world and to share the good news.

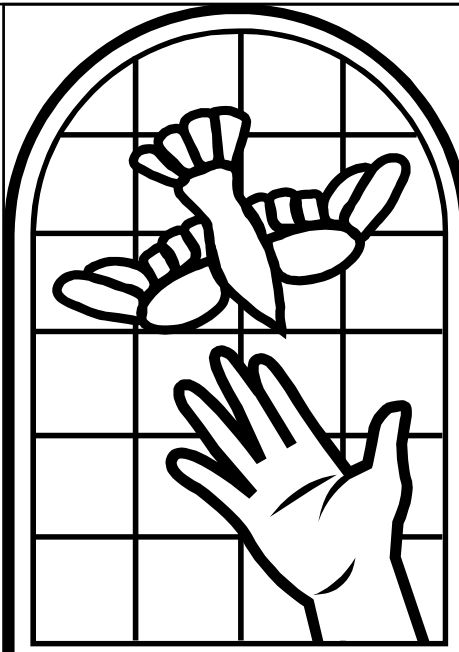
We desperately covet your prayers and ask you to be in mission with us by your prayers. As the Apostle Paul wrote in Ephesians 6:18-20, we similarly request for you to pray for us.

*18And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. 19Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, 20for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.*

If you are willing to commit to be a prayer partner with us and our mission, please turn in your name and email address (optional) in the offering and we will send you photos and updates of our plans and trip. Or you can contact Sherree Gorman at sgorman4@att.net or call her at 841-2842 if you would like to be a prayer partner.

The 2008 Kirzhach Mission Team is as follows:

Sherree Gorman  
Gala Buell  
Angela Sparks  
Kylie Harrenstien  
Pam Campbell  
Ann Marie Campbell



# PENTECOST

***Sunday, May 11 is  
the day of Pentecost.***

***Wear RED to church  
on May 11 to  
celebrate!***

### ***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



Do you have diabetes? Are your legs sore after walking a short distance? Are you over 55 years of age? If yes, YOU may want to consider being screened for peripheral arterial disease (PAD) risk. Life Line Screening screens for plaque build up in the legs as only 25% of the 8 million persons with PAD are receiving treatment.

Do you avoid milk products? Have you had cortisone therapy for an extended period of time? Is there a lack of weight bearing exercise in your daily routine? If yes, YOU may want to consider being screened for osteoporosis risk. The FDA has now approved osteoporosis screening for men! More than half of the 1.5 million people Life Line Screening serves are at moderate or high risk for bone loss. 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 \$35 or \$119 for the vascular package/ \$129 complete wellness package.

Note: I had these tests done one year ago, and though I will not be able to do it again that day, I plan to do it again in the future.

Betty Witt, RN, BSN Parish Nurse.

The Victors

In my mind's eye there is a picture;  
Ne'er touched by artist's brush.

Kneeling with hands lifted toward Heaven,  
She prayed to the Savior she love so much!

The Savior heard her thanks and pleading,  
I remember hearing her say,  
Thank you Lord for your goodness and mercy!  
Thank you for showing the way!

To endure the hardship of life on earth,  
Knowing that soon they shall pass away,  
For those who know and trust You,  
Are coming to Heaven to stay!

Throughout the years of forever,  
We'll praise the love of the Son,  
Who willingly bore the pain of the cross,  
That all errant souls may be won!

By matchless grace and love of the Father,  
Whose Son sends for the call,  
Repent, believe and be baptized!  
Ne'er have fear that ye may fall!

Pray daily and feed the homeless and hungry,  
Their sorrow and woe are so severe,  
They daily call the able and willing,  
The Savior directed us always to hear!

I think perhaps you now may know,  
The picture I'm writing about,  
'Tis my own dear, darling mother,  
The picture's so clear it makes me shout!

OK! mother be patient for yet a while,  
For soon I'm coming your way,  
My pathway grows ever clearer!  
Soon I'll hear the porter say!

Pray enter my son; you are welcome!  
And two persons your are anxious to see!  
The Son named Jesus and your own mother!  
You three may truly acclaim victory!

—Raymond Foster



For My Mother, My Friend  
By La Shaine Reynolds

I don't think I ever told you,  
How much I appreciate the things you do.  
You have been there when I cried,  
And always known when I've lied.  
You taught me how to read and sing,  
And punished me when I did the wrong thing.  
You were there to tell me goodnight,  
And always knew how to make things all right.  
I look up to you, Mom,  
And I love you very much.  
I don't know what it would be like  
Without your loving touch.  
You will always come first in my heart,  
No matter how far we are apart.  
Mom, I have not told you,  
I don't know where I've been.  
You're not only just my mother,  
You're forever my best friend.



## Mark Your Calendar!

### 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.



### Monthly Breakfast Meeting

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 May 3. All men and boys of North Spring are invited to attend.

## 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): 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 & Pre-Conference Package	Premium Seating at Conference	\$119*
Conference Only	Premium Seating at Conference	\$65
Box Lunch for Saturday (well worth it)	(only if you do not order the package)	\$8

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.

 **North Spring UMC**  
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Take a look at our newly redesigned website. This new site has just been unveiled. Our old site was wonderful but just became outdated. Our new site looks awesome and will continue to evolve into a slick and refined site as more bells and whistles will be added. Please give a wholehearted thank you to Bob Sloop who has done a terrific job in making our new site a reality! He has contributed many long hours to this endeavor. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please contact Sherree Gorman at 841-2842. Our web address has not changed. It is [www.northspring.org](http://www.northspring.org).