



# the Well Spring

The monthly newsletter of North Spring United Methodist Church



## Outpourings From The Spring

By Rev. Bill Radford

One month of the new year gone and so much about to happen. I am certainly glad the winter weather has stopped the growth of the grass, I have no idea how I find time to mow in the growing season but some how God manages to give us just enough time for what we need to do in each season. February 25<sup>th</sup> with our Ash Wednesday Service and Easter will be here before you know it, April 12<sup>th</sup> this year and then it will be time to cut grass again.

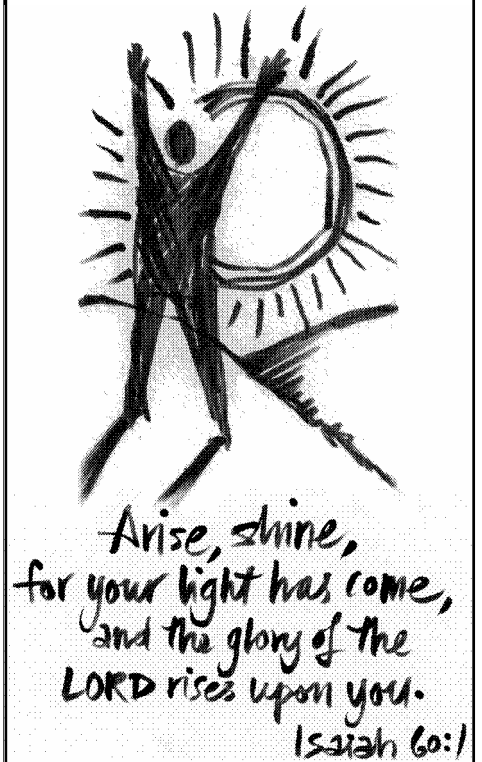
The Christmas season was wonderful at North Spring with great programs and specials. I overheard some commenting that the children's program was the best we have ever had at North Spring and I would agree it was wonderful, thank you to

all the kids, parents, and to Heidi for the effort. I hope you all have had time to read Bishop Jobs little Book on John Wesley's three rules and will sign up for one of the group studies being offered. Bobbie and I received many thoughtful gifts and we thank each and everyone for your thoughts, prayers and love.

The next two weeks should bring lots of visitors to our service with Boy Scout Sunday on February 1<sup>st</sup> and the dedication of the rock wall on February 8<sup>th</sup>, let's all be looking for ways to meet these visitors and to offer Christ's love and hospitality to them. Several members have spoken to me in regards to God's response to their fervent prayer for our church and they have all gotten a response that indicates good things are about to happen. Working together with God on our side we can not be defeated.

Let our witness be a powerful, transforming agent in Blue Springs as we continue to work together to build God's Kingdom.

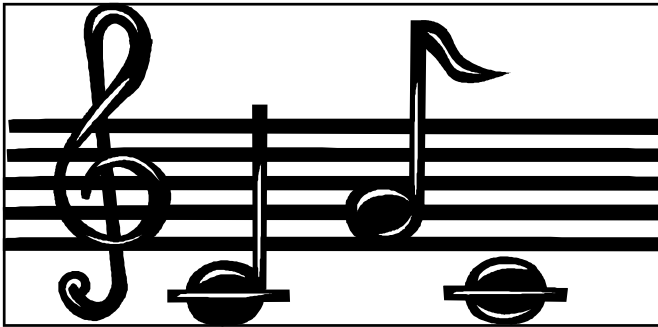
**I love you all!**



## February 2009

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### Music Notes

From Heidi Rater  
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623-9105

Hello everyone! I hope everyone is enjoying the music we are presenting each Sunday. We are trying to do a variety of music to keep things interesting. I would still love to hear song suggestions, if any of you would like to turn in a list. Or just come and talk to me after worship service.

A highlight of last month was Marie Ware singing. I REALLY want to encourage kids *of all ages* to sing or play. I can help you find something, if you don't know what to do. You do NOT have to be a professional musician to participate in the music at North Spring.

One suggestion we had was to bring in groups from outside the church to perform occasionally. This is happening (or did happen depending on when you read this) on February 1. A praise band called Luminare from Woods Chapel Church will be presenting the special music. I'm really looking forward to this, and I hope you are, too.

Special music for February:

- February 1:  
Luminare from Woods Chapel UMC
- February 8:  
Selah—Rock Wall dedication
- February 15:  
Dave McDougal and Heidi Rater
- February 22:  
SoulFood

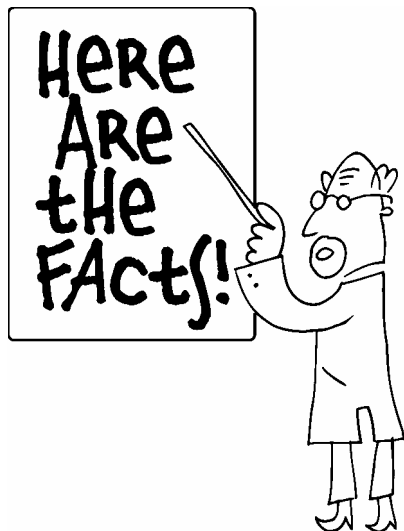
### Dedication / Memorial

We will have a dedication and memorial celebration during our Sunday Worship Service on February 8th in honor of the rock wall, tile in the west narthex and fellowship hall, and all of the other work that has taken place to improve the Lord's House. Since the rock wall was installed as a memorial wish of the Lohman's, we will have a short memorial in their honor. This celebration will take place as part of the service and following the service we will have cake and punch. Invite your friends and neighbors to help us celebrate all that the Lord is doing here at the Spring!



### World Day of Prayer

We will again celebrate the World Day of Prayer by holding an overnight prayer vigil in our sanctuary. It will start at 3pm on Friday, March 6th and end at noon on Saturday, March 7th. You may sign up for a 30-minute prayer slot, or multiple slots if you'd like. The sign-up sheet will be posted in the West Narthex. Last year we had almost every slot filled. Our goal this year is to fill as many time slots as possible. In these stressful economic times, as well as difficult economic times for our church, this is the perfect way to come together as the body of Christ and bring our burdens to the Lord. Let's spend some serious time with God and focus ourselves on the only thing that really matters.



### \$\$Money Matters\$\$

This year the Finance Team will include a snapshot of where the Church stands from a financial standpoint in the monthly WellSpring newsletter. This is the first of such articles.

As you may recall, the Finance Team released a letter a few weeks ago alerting the congregation that we had a serious financial shortfall when comparing the 2009 budget to the 2009 pledges. The pledges are about \$47,000 short of what is needed to pay the current mortgage, staff, utilities, etc. Much of this is due to the current economy, which is having an impact on everyone.

The first step the Finance Team has taken is to attempt to get a significant reduction in the current mortgage payment. To that end, we have contacted the bank and informed them of our situation and asked them to improve the terms of our current mortgage. We believe that the interest rate can be reduced as well as the amount of principal we pay each month.

This is not a new strategy in that the Finance Team has been asking them to come to the table for the past year without success. We have just added a new sense of urgency to the request. Fortunately, we now have a meeting scheduled with the Bank on January 27<sup>th</sup>. We will report the outcome of that meeting when it is known. Please pray that we have a favorable outcome from this effort. This step could reduce the shortfall from \$47,000 to less than \$17,000, which is more manageable. With the addition of special gifts, fund raisers, and Fall Fun Fest receipts, we might make it through this time.

Here are the numbers from collections for the first month of January. While we still are firming up the budget numbers, we believe that with the reduced mortgage payment the average weekly amount required to run the church will be \$2,980. The average weekly collection for the month of January was \$3165.

We will continue to keep you informed of developments. If we get to the point where we have to consider actions that will impact our current ministry somehow, we will call a meeting of the Church membership to discuss this first. Meanwhile we continue to ask for your prayers that God will bless our work and guide us through this very difficult time.

Tom Gorman,  
Finance Chair

## Safe Sanctuary Training

There will be a Safe Sanctuary Training class at the church on Saturday, February 7 at 6:30 pm. Everybody who works with the kids in any way needs to be Safe Sanctuary certified and certification needs to be renewed every few years. At this point almost all of our volunteers are coming due for renewal. See Jan Chance or visit [www.moumethodist.org](http://www.moumethodist.org) for more details or online training.

Safe Sanctuaries now provides an online training and forms submission. The module allows you to fill out your application, make payment for the certification process, authorize a national background screening, participate in training, and print reference forms.

In order to complete the process you will need to create a user name and password (Unless you already have one through UMCDData), and you will need a credit card in order to pay for certification (Certification fee is \$20). Most people are able to complete the entire process in less than three hours; however, the actual time will vary from person to person.

You may leave the training at any time and come back later to complete the process; however, you must complete your work in less than two weeks. You will be notified by the Safe Sanctuaries Certification Authority when certification is approved.

Thank you for your interest in caring for those who are most vulnerable to harm.



## CIA Calendar

### February

Sun 1st No Youth, Superbowl  
 Fri 6th FCA Concert at Hope  
 Lock-in to follow  
 Sun 8th No Youth  
 Sun 15th 6:30-8:00 pm @NSUMC  
 Sun 22nd 6:30-8:00 pm @ Hope

### March

Sun 1st 6:30-8:00 pm @NSUMC  
 Sun 8th 6:30-8:00 pm @ Hope  
 Sun 15th 6:30-8:00 pm @NSUMC  
 Sun 22nd 6:30-8:00 pm @ Hope  
 Sun 29th Youth Sunday @NSUMC

### April

Sun 5th 6:30-8:00 pm @ Hope  
 Sun 12th No Youth, Easter  
 Sun 19th 6:30-8:00 pm @NSUMC  
 Sun 26th Youth Sunday @ Hope

### FCA Lock-in

On February 6th, FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) will be sponsoring a lock-in at Hope UMC for the youth group. There will be a concert and a speaker. The festivities will begin at 10:00 pm. This is after all basketball games are over. If anyone is interested in attending please let Angie know and rides will be provided out to Hope. If you are planning on spending the night then you will need to make arrangements for a ride home on Sat. morning.

### 30 Hour Famine

This year we had 17 people participate in the 30 hour famine. Our goal was to raise at least \$500.

We exceeded our goal by raising just over \$1200. The CIA worked extremely hard in raising this amount of money. They were very loyal with their famine as well. It was great to hear how they worked together to support each other in their time of hunger. This money will be sent to World Vision to help feed starving children in the Amazon. Thanks to everyone who supported a youth. Please take a moment to give them a congratulations!

### Mission Trip to Sager Brown

Here is your opportunity to go on a mission trip this summer to the Sager Brown Depot in Baldwin, LA. This is a warehouse that houses mission kits, including the flood buckets, that will be packed up and sent to locations nationally and internationally. You will have the chance to help in the warehouse or work on building projects in Baldwin. The trip will be the last week in July and is open to adults and high school youth. For more information, contact Debbie Laemmler at 690-8591 or 304-9416. Please express your interest before February 21st because the slots are filling up fast.



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

## Friday Night Fires



A new group has started on Friday nights at 6:00 pm for older teens and young adults (16 & up). There will be a fire, hotdogs & marshmallows, music and discussions. See Pastor Bill for more info.



### Note...

The deadline for submitting items for the **March WellSpring is Friday, February 20.**

Please have all articles and information turned in to the office before this date.

Contact Heather at:  
[hsooley@northspring.org](mailto:hsooley@northspring.org)

### Contact our Staff...

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

**Heidi Rater, Music Director**  
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**Heather Sooley, Office Manager**  
[hsooley@northspring.org](mailto:hsooley@northspring.org)

Pilgrim Meets Stranger

A forlorn old man sat near the trail,  
He was worn and burdened with care,  
His face bore the marks of a life well spent,  
As he rested and tarried there.

A vigorous youth came tripping by,  
And said Old Timer why are you here?  
You'd as well lie down and die he said,  
And thus escape a season of fear.

The oldster rose as if to walk away,  
But he was speaking loud and clear,  
I've a way yet to go and I must press on,  
My faith has conquered fear!

I've led quite a useful life,  
Loving family and friends galore,  
But most of them have now departed,  
Few of the others come anymore!

Many of my days are rather lonely,  
But despair has not yet begun,  
I refuse to see my shadow,  
For I am still facing the sun!

As the sunset days draw ever near,  
I will not turn around,  
I've a date to keep with my Maker,  
That will be on celestial grounds!

Where I'll greet both Father and Son,  
And all my cherished loved ones too,  
And some gracious strangers I met on the way,  
That would be somebody like you!

This vigorous youth had stood quiet entranced,  
As the oldster related his litany of faith,  
He prayed: Dear Lord forgive my frowned stance,  
Give me of this pilgrim's grace!

For I'd like to travel with him,  
Until he bids us all farewell,  
I pray we may be reunited,  
Where the faithful forever dwell!

—Raymond Foster

**Church Calendar**

You can now check the church calendar any time you'd like, right from the comforts of your home! It is on the church website. The web address is: <http://www.northspring.org/Calendar.aspx>. If the calendar doesn't show an activity that should be scheduled, just contact Heather to add the activity to the calendar. This calendar has the ability to generate an email to invite people to our activities. Just click on the activity and fill out the form to send an email. You can view the calendar by the month or by the week. You can scroll to future or past months. So, we hope you will find this new calendar to be helpful in keeping abreast with activities in the church and planning your activities. If you have suggestions or comments, please contact Sherree Gorman.



**Winter Weather Policy**

Sunday Worship will take place regardless of the weather conditions. If the weather outside is frightful, use your best judgment about your fitness to venture out, but rest assured Pastor Bill will be here and worship will take place in some capacity every Sunday. Evening activities may be cancelled at the discretion of the activity leaders and every effort will be made to call and notify those affected.



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

**Our Vision:** To be agents of Christ to transform lives and community through Christ by prayer, discipleship, fellowship, and outreach.



We are collecting supplies for use around the church. We are in need of the following items:

Liquid Hand Soap  
Windex  
Pledge  
Foam Window Cleaner  
Clorox Wipes  
Paper Plates  
Napkins  
Toilet Paper  
Tissues  
Coffee Cups

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visit us on the web @ [www.northspring.org](http://www.northspring.org)