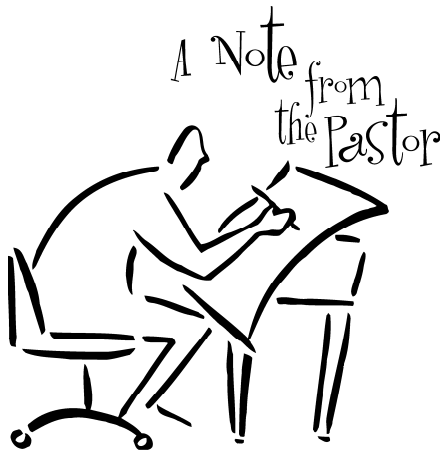




the Well Spring

The monthly newsletter of North Spring United Methodist Church



Outpourings from the Spring

Rev. Bill Radford

As this newsletter arrives, we will be ready to begin the holy season of Lent. Lent officially begins with Ash Wednesday, February 25th, and continues until Easter morning, April 12th. This is a period of time for preparation and reflection as we get ready to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord on Easter morning. We will have a couple of very special services. First, an Ash Wednesday service with imposition of ashes to begin the season and to get to a humble place from which to reflect. Second, there will be a Maundy Thursday service, a very dark and powerful ceremony designed to let us experience

the depth of despair the disciples must have felt on the evening following Christ's crucifixion. This service will require the participation of a number of dramatic readers. Bobbie will be organizing the readers. If you have an interest in helping, please let her know.

We need to replace the wooden fence behind our house, so I took a walk today to look at fences and get a better idea of what style we might build. During my investigative walk, I noticed a few things. Most of the fences are built so that the side of the fence which faces the street is smooth and pleasant to look at from the outside. This leaves the framed structure of the fence - the less pleasant side - facing the owner's house. Occasionally, I saw a fence built in the reverse; that is, with the nicer view on the inside. There were a few fences built so that both sides looked the same and both were pleasant to view. These fences take a great deal more time and effort to build and thus carry a higher cost.

These fences are kind of like our lives. We can build a life that is beautiful for others to look at, but not so beautiful on

the inside. We can build a life that is beautiful for ourselves but not so beautiful for others to see. Or we can spend the extra effort, time and care to build a life that is beautiful inside and out. Jesus challenges us through his sacrifice to build the fence that is beautiful on both sides, but there is a cost.

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!

March 2009

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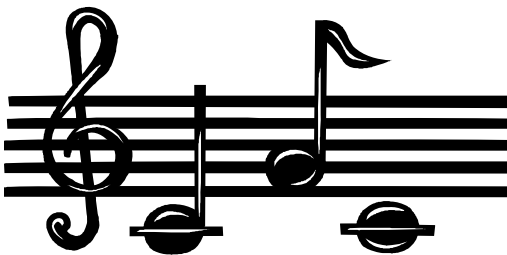
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Dramatic Readers Needed

As part of the Maundy Thursday (Last Supper) evening service on April 9, we will be presenting Tenebrae - a dramatic reading of Christ's final moments on earth. No memorization is involved, but there are 2 required rehearsals immediately following worship service on Sundays, March 29 and April 5.

If you are interested, please contact Bobbie Radford at 220-3533 or bradford@northspring.org.



Greetings from the Music Department of North Spring!

Heidi Rater, Music Director
heidirater@comcast.net
623-9105

We had a GREAT turn out for the music planning meeting on February 17. We seemed to have found a better time for it, so the next one will be on March 17 at 6:00 right before Selah practice.

We have wonderful music that we are already planning and practicing for Holy Week and Easter. Be sure and let me know if there are songs you would like to hear on Maundy Thursday or Easter and we'll do our best to work them in. Music can help us remember and express the awesome gift of Jesus.

Meanwhile enjoy these groups and soloists for our special music in March:

March 1: Selah
March 8: Anne Marie Campbell, piano
March 15: Heidi Rater
March 22: Cindi Harris
March 29: Youth Sunday and
Soul Food

Molehill Ahoy

**If your molehill looks like a mountain,
That you don't think you can climb,
Just remember that man who first conquered Everest,**

**Oftimes the most difficult part of a journey,
Is that bold, courageous first step,
Be off; look up; concentrate on the heights,
Have you really so long soundly slept?**

**Fellow travelers are willing to help you,
But they first must believe you're sincere,
Choose your goal, press forward and never relent,
By effort, faith and hope persevere.**

**Ere long you may begin to help others,
You'll progress together no doubt,
Far down the slope others are climbing,
Can't you hear those hopeful shouts?**

**They invite you to exert more effort,
The entire mountain side is moving,
Who said you can't move a mountain?
The Master himself is approving!**

**He stands atop the towering heights,
Bidding us take a few steps more,
The mountain air seems fresher,
Than any we've ever breathed before!**

**In fact the surrounding seems rather celestial,
And if one chances to glance below,
The once forbidding molehill has vanished,
Not even a dismal afterglow!**

**Instead the mountainside throng of pilgrims,
Join in a joyous refrain,
That the first bold steps at the molehill,
May even the peak of Everest gain!**

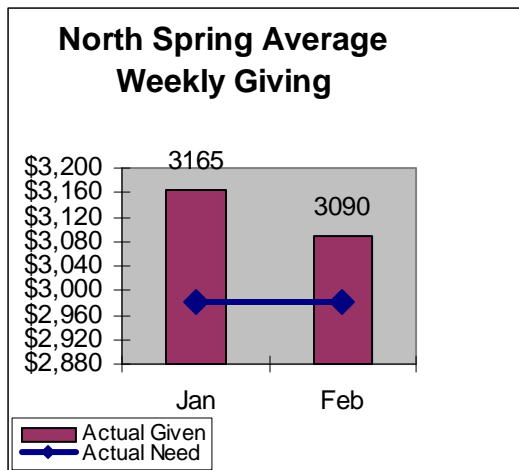
**Where stand the righteous Father and Son,
Extending gracious, welcoming hands,
To all faithful molehill climbers,
Who will inherit the Promised Land!**

—Raymond Foster

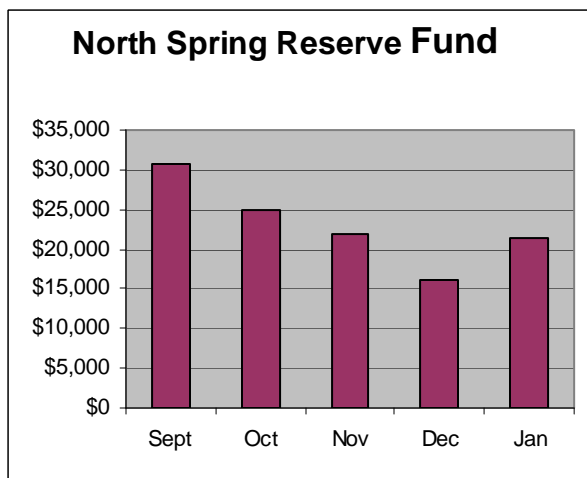
\$\$Money Matters\$\$

By Tom Gorman

We have a little bit of good news from the Finance team this month. On Ash Wednesday, our Trustees signed a revised note from Metcalf Bank with a much lower interest rate reducing our monthly mortgage payment on the building by about \$2,000/month. This will save the Church \$24,000 annually and significantly reduce our budget gap for the year. With the new terms we are allowed to go back to paying interest only; but we likely will still pay some principal each month. With the following chart we also see some good news. The Average Weekly Giving for both January and February is slightly above the barebones amount needed to meet our Pledge Budget.



The following Chart tracks our funds balance for the past several months. Again here, we have more good news. Our Reserve fund balance increased for the first time in several months.



Despite some good numbers so far, we are not out of the woods this year. We will need to keep up the amount of weekly giving. We will need several fund-raisers this year in addition to Fall Fun Fest. We will need more volunteer work done and materials donated by Church members in the gardens and parking lot. We will need a little luck and hope nothing major breaks. Still the greatest need is prayer. We all know that God watches over his flock. He is watching over us now.

Children's Ministry News

By Kara Taylor

Our Curious Kids have a new Noisy Offering project they are collecting your pocket change for - the cost of making a Personal Energy Transportation (PET) vehicle. According to PET's website, the PET Project is a faith-based, volunteer driven, non-profit organization located in Columbia, Missouri that makes PET vehicles for disabled individuals who have no appropriate means of mobility in poor and underdeveloped countries. The PET vehicle is a sturdy, simple, low-cost hand-cranked or lever powered tricycle-type of vehicle that provides the disabled user independent mobility that would be otherwise unachievable.



The PET vehicles are available in adult and children sizes and only cost \$250 each. Our Curious Kids' goal is to raise at least enough money to make one PET by the end of March.

Our children love to collect your pocket change! Please consider giving your change to them during Noisy Offering - it helps our children feel like they are making a difference and it will provide a disabled person mobility and independence - imagine if your mobility were taken from you?

Prayer For Lent

By Sherree Gorman

This year's theme for our Lenten activities revolves around prayer. Prayer was a very important part of Jesus' ministry. He prayed for himself and for his sheep, all according to the Father's will. See John 17. He also taught his followers how to pray. See Luke 11:1-13.

Prayer is a communication or communion with God. It can take many forms. It can be done individually or corporately. It can be done privately or publicly. We will be given many opportunities to participate in prayer in various activities of our church this Lenten season. There is especially a strong need of prayer now during these difficult times – for ourselves, our church body, our community, our nation, and our world. Let's wrap all of it in prayer. It is also essential that we rededicate our lives in our relationship with God, through our communication and our communion with Him.

There are scriptures about praying together (Matthew 18:19-20) and praying alone (Matthew 6:5-6). There are scriptures about praying for each other (James 5:13-16) and praying continually (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

After a Light Supper on March 4 at 6 pm, Jim Pulley will start our Lenten Lights Prayer Lesson off with a teaching on the Lord's Prayer. The lesson will start at 6:45 pm and should not be missed. A prayer time will follow. See the schedule for all of the other prayer activities.

Here are two prayers that you might want to meditate on during our Lenten season.

Psalm 51:10-12 (ESV)

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

Wesleyan Covenant Prayer

I am no longer my own, but thine. Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

Let me be employed for thee or laid aside for thee, exalted for thee or brought low for thee.

Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal.

And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, thou art mine, and I am thine.

So be it.

And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven.

Amen.



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

CIA Calendar

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



Note...

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

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

Contact Heather at:
hsooley@northspring.org

Contact our Staff...

Rev. Bill Radford, Pastor
church: 224-9490
home: 220-3533
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bradford@northspring.org

Heidi Rater, Music Director
heidirater@comcast.net

Heather Sooley, Office Manager
hsooley@northspring.org

North Spring Happenings

March 1 – Wall of Prayers

On the first Sunday of Lent we will begin our Lenten Prayers by submitting our prayers to God by writing them down on provided papers and inserting them within the crevices of the rock wall behind the altar table. This is as it is done at the wailing wall in Jerusalem. These prayers can be submitted at any time during Lent. They will be lifted up to God at Easter.

March 3 or 5 – Three Simple Rules Study

A terrific 6-week study is starting in early March to get us refocused on the profoundly simple, and yet not necessarily easy practices of discipleship. As Christians, we must always continue on our journey of discipleship for God wants us to be his disciples. Thankfully, Pastor Bill provided us a small, easy to read book as a gift at Christmas which will be the basis of this study. It is “Three Simple Rules – A Wesleyan Way of Living” by Rueben Job. Do not miss your opportunity to participate in this class. Join in on either Tuesdays, starting March 3 at 10 am or Thursdays, starting March 5 at 7 pm.

March 6-7 – World Day of Prayer

Starting at 3 pm on March 6 and continuing until noon on March 7, we will hold an overnight prayer vigil. You may sign up for a 30-minute prayer slot, or multiple slots if you'd like. The sign-up sheet is posted in the West Narthex. What a wonderful prayer event during Lent.

March 7 – Guest Speaker, Bill Ouseley

Come and hear Bill Ouseley on March 7 at 9 am. This event is

open to everyone. The North Spring UMC Men's Group is hosting the event. Bill Ouseley is the author of the book “*Open City: True Story of the KC Crime Family 1900-1950*”. Bill will tell the story of a captive city with unbridled politicians and corruption with powerful and colorful crime bosses, KC jazz and courageous police officers and reformers. Author Bill Ouseley retired as Supervisor of the KC FBI Field Divisions Organized Crime Squad after a 25 year career. Our morning will begin with donuts, bagels, and egg casserole followed by Bill's presentation. Bill's book will be available for sale, and there will be a “free-will” offering to support North Spring UMC. Bill will also be available for a book signing.

March 22 – One Great Hour of Sharing

A special offering will be taken this Sunday to go to UMCOR. Your gifts to UMCOR enable the church to answer God's call to bring help, healing and hope to the hurting people in the world. Please prayerfully consider donating at least one hour's wages to this cause.

Holy Week Come & Go Prayers

Start your days with prayers and devotions this Holy Week. The church will be open from 6:30 am until 9 am for prayers and devotions Monday, April 6 through Friday, April 10 for Holy Week.

April 9 – Maundy Thursday

We will have a Holy Thursday service with communion followed immediately by a Tenebrae service. The Tenebrae service is a dark service of mostly scripture readings and some very powerful music, along with the gradual extinguishing of candles. This will be a very special service worth inviting friends and family to join you.

April 12 – Easter Sunday

Pancake Breakfast – 8 to 9:15 am (for a Love Offering)

Then, come and join in the extraordinary Easter Celebration of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ! Bring your friends, relatives and neighbors. Let's blow the doors out! Our worship cannot be contained! He is risen indeed, and he is within our midst.

April 19 – Special Music Sunday

Award winning musician, Christopher Ames, will be presenting special music this Sunday in worship. For those of you who have heard him before, you will remember how much fun it is to worship with him. For the rest, this will be a special treat. He is coming to play his guitar from New York. A love offering will be collected for him.

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.



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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.



Every Wednesday during Lent

Starting March 4 and continuing through Lent we will have a gathering of the body of believers every Wednesday for a light supper (for a Love Offering) and a prayer series.

Light Supper – 6 to 6:30 pm

Prayer Lesson – 6:45 to 6:55 pm

Shared Prayer – 6:55 to 7:05 pm (or thereabouts)

Jesus said, “Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

(Matthew 18:19-20 ESV)

Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 5:15-17 ESV)

visit us on the web @ www.northspring.org