

Wild Game Dinner Wildly Successful



More than 100 men gathered in the Fellowship Hall on Friday, January 22 for an evening that could only be described as an outdoorsman's paradise. The Wild Game Dinner was successful on many different levels, with the goal of reaching out to new people being the biggest success. Rev. Terry Tamplen estimates that 75% of the people at the dinner were not members of our church. Outreach Ministry Director Kris Riley says that an informal survey conducted via the prize registration showed that most people came because they were invited by a church member, followed by "reading it in the newspaper" as the second highest response. Kris says she is thrilled to know our members are inviting others to "come see what we have going on."

And a lot did indeed go on: a delicious dinner, a captivating speaker, and extravagant giveaways all added up to a fine event.

Kris thanks the generous members of our church for donations of food for the dinner and prizes. Juan Vasquez won the rifle; Bill Lipham won the shotgun, and Ray Renfro won the 2 person dove hunt. At the end of the dinner, Rev. Tamplen asked if the men would like to have another Wild Game Dinner next year. A resounding "Yes!" was the enthusiastic response. Ah, yes. Another successful outreach effort to welcome others into our community of faith.

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Tyree Johnson Joins Church Staff

On Feb. 7

Tyree Johnson will begin serving as the Worship Leader for our 11:00 contemporary service.

Tyree, an outgoing and multi-talented musician, was introduced to music at a young age by his grandmother who raised him. She bought his first violin, and he credits her—as well as his aunts—with "sowing the seed" that gave him his love of music. Tyree grew up in Midland and graduated from Midland High School where he played violin in the orchestra and sang in the choir. He went on to graduate from Baylor with a Music Performance degree. Tyree shares his passion for music with his 4-year-old son, Myles, who is already a good little singer and is learning to play the violin. Tyree also owns Johnson Music Studio where he and four other teachers teach over 70 children and adults to sing and play different instruments. Before coming to serve at our church, Tyree was the Choir Master at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Midland. We look forward to getting to know him better and joining him in passionate worship!



**Passionate
Worship**

LOTS OF “INVITING” OPPORTUNITIES COMING UP – Who’s on your list?

I am so excited about all of the opportunities that are coming up to participate in God’s grace at FUMC.

1. **Letters from Dad** – Learn how you can leave a legacy of faith, hope and love to your loved ones by re-capturing the lost art of letter writing.



2. **Financial Peace University** – Learn how to get out of debt, stay out of debt and develop a healthy financial plan for today and for your future.



3. **Focus on Marriage Simulcast** – Celebrating God’s design for commitment. Expect to receive a unique spiritual perspective you won’t find at any other marriage conference.



6 Practices
of a
Fruitful
Congregation

- Radical Hospitality
- Passionate Worship
- Intentional Faith Development
- Risk-Taking Mission & Service
- Extravagant Generosity
- Sharing Love

I am inviting someone to come with me to one or more of these exciting opportunities. Would you do the same?

Our mission – the reason we exist, is to Love others, *Invite them to join us* as we Follow Christ, who Empowers us to make a difference.

Terry

Spice Of Life Begins 2010 With New Servant-Helpers

New Ministries: Cooking And Creating A Loving Setting

When Rev. Jeanie Williams accepted the senior pastor position at St. James UMC-Abilene, there was concern from members of the *Spice Of Life* ministry as to how the monthly meetings would continue. Each month, Jeanie organized the program, created a theme, and decorated the tables around the theme. Jeanie also either cooked food herself or had the meal catered, with the exception of November and December. Those months Russell Kimble and Sam Howell prepared Thanksgiving and Christmas meals, “done up right.”



Sam Howell and Russell Kimble have accepted the servant’s role of preparing the monthly meals for Spice Of Life to say “thank you” to long-time members.



Lady Hawkins and Evelyn Baumann look forward to the delicious meal at Spice of Life.

What to do after Jeanie left?

Russell did not hesitate to prepare the monthly meal because it “seemed the right thing to do” since he’s “gainfully unemployed, now.”

For Sam, who loves to cook, “This is the least I can do to say ‘Thank You’ to all these good folks who have done so much through the years for our church.”

Another servant to step up to help was Johnnie Williams. For her to take over the monthly decorating of the tables was another natural progression. Johnnie bakes and decorates the beautiful cakes served in honor of the monthly birthdays. Johnnie says, “I’m getting to do something I love to do.” It’s her way for serving others, her ministry for God.

At this month’s luncheon, there were ooh’s and aah’s as Russell announced the meal of grilled pork chops, sweet potato casserole, black-eyed peas, and cornbread. All cooked from scratch, and with Christian love as the secret ingredient. —Betsy Triplett-Hurt

Sharing Love

Radical Hospitality

2KX4Xn’s – Looking 4ward

Because many changes occurred in the 2010 staffing and set-up for Spice Of Life, “newness, changes, and looking forward” was the theme that the new director Jody Wallin chose. *2KX4Xn’s – Looking 4ward*, which translates to *2010 For Christians – Looking Forward*, is how Jody termed the program.

Jody states that his goal for this long-time ministry for our senior members is to “grow in numbers and continue with good food, good fellowship, and good programming in the tradition of Rev. Bill Heggemeier and Rev. Jeanie Williams.” Not an easy task, but one that Jody is eager to tackle. Come join the fun and fellowship every third Thursday of the month at 11:30 in the Youth Annex.



Mozelle Lowe celebrates her January birthday at the Spice Of Life luncheon on Thursday, Jan. 21. She and Jody Wallin hold the birthday cake that caps off a delicious meal. Jody’s goal is to continue the wonderful time of fun and fellowship in this important ministry.

Wild Game Dinner, continued from page one

The event was planned by men, for men. Committee members working with Outreach Ministry on the event were Jim Carlson, J.T. Morgan, Don Wright, Chris Johnson, Don Blair, Bobby Schneider and Steve Riley. We asked them about their reasons for getting involved and these were their responses.

1. Why are you serving on the Wild Game Dinner event? All of the men answered, enthusiastically: I love to hunt!

J.T.: I also think this is a chance for the average guy to realize that we Christians are just guys like them, but perhaps with just a little something extra because we know our Lord.

Don Blair: It provides an opportunity for service through Christian fellowship.

Jim: I grew up with hunting influence and “eat what you kill” mentality - neat to see that in the church setting.

2. How does being an outdoorsman and/or hunter fit into your journey with Christ?

J.T.: It is also part of my stewardship responsibility as a Christian to protect, defend, improve and enjoy the great outdoors, thus our speaker who is an expert in natural resource management; he is not a hunting guide!

Don B.: I continue to be in awe of the wonderful world that God has created. Sitting on the edge of a canyon at sunrise, watching the light move down the wall as the sun gets higher, listening to the sound of the birds as they awaken for the day, seeing a porcupine sunning itself in the top of a tree, being in the midst of a migration of thousands of Monarch butterflies or robins, watching a red tailed hawk soaring--how much better does it get?

Jim: Better appreciation of all that was and is created for man to serve as steward over - nature, quiet time, activity with family and friends also.

3. What do you pray is accomplished by hosting this event?

J.T.: I will get to know more folks with similar interests, and more of the community will come to know that our church is a welcoming and vibrant place to worship and make your church home.

Don B.: I pray that others will understand how much God wants us to enjoy the wonderful gift of life and all the opportunities available to each of us.

Radical Hospitality



Don Blair and Don Wright are among the many cooks for the Wild Game Dinner. Don W. says this was an easy outreach for him because he loves to hunt and he loves to cook!

Jim: The opportunity to have others see FUMC as unique in its variety of ministries/outreach; possibly rethink “church” for those that are “missing;” everyone gain insight into stewardship

of our wildlife resources.

4. What is the most joyful thing about doing this?

J.T. So far, working with the fine guys on the committee and getting to know Kris Riley better (who is a jewel and probably tired of dragging our committee around!). I actually enjoyed being on the radio and may give up my day job!!!

Don B.: The most joyful thing about working with this event is the fellowship with brothers in Christ and the preparation to serve other brothers.

Jim: To get to eat a great meal with great people!! Honestly, seeing our folks put together an event that shines with radical hospitality - wow!



Kris Riley says a special thanks to the women of the church who served, prepared food & decorated for the outreach event. Finding the perfect location for decorations are (L-R) Debbie Heard, Kris, and Christine Findley.



Youth Fundraiser

Chocolate Covered
Strawberries

Purchase by February 7
Just in time for Valentine's day
All proceeds go to fund youth trips

2010 Begins Up In The Air For Youth

Intentional Faith Development

Located 280 miles south of Odessa in the Texas Hill Country is a Christian retreat center called Camp Eagle. It is situated next to the river and is a beautiful place to get away. This was the location of our second annual discipleship retreat. Students and adults from our student ministry loaded up on Friday, January 8 for a time away from the usual business of life and a time with God. Two other United Methodist Churches joined us for the weekend.

From the time we unpacked until Sunday afternoon when we left, our time was packed with Bible study, worship, adventure activities, great food, fellowship, and lots of fun. We participated in four small group sessions presented by some of our young adult disciples. The study was called "Sequence." The first session was based on Jesus' question to Peter when he



Emily Scharlach and Emily Allbright succeed in the challenge of paddling a canoe.

asked, "Who do people say that I am?" We all have different ideas about who Jesus is and what it means to be a disciple. We learned that the way we see Jesus or his identity to us impacts how we follow Him. In our next session, we learned that as followers, we are called to deny ourselves. It is not about God blessing our plans, but us following God's plans. The third session focused on the fact that following Christ comes with a cost. It will cause us at times to suffer. It will not always be easy. The final session was a call to follow. Having considered all that it means to be a disciple, will we follow Christ? Students were challenged to "surrender" the things that hold them back from being a committed follower of Christ. The worship services also focused on these themes. In addition to study and worship, we had some challenge activities as well. Students were able

to choose from a lot of different activities. They could go on the zip line, they could go rock climbing, canoeing, rappelling, or go on the power pole. The power pole is 165' in the air, and you jump from a platform to a trapeze bar that is above your head and away from you. You are belayed to a team holding on to you, but it is still a challenge to jump.

Our time away was a huge success and has impacted the spiritual lives of the students and adults. It has become a great way to start the new year. We appreciate the help and support of our church family to be able to provide spiritual growth opportunities for our students such as these.—Rev. Donnie Williams

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Garren Schneider holds a piece of ice taken from the frozen river as he canoes along the river as part of Camp Eagle weekend.



Bryson Rolls and Jordan Lee zip along zip lines



If you know of a youth in the 6th–12th grade who has not participated in confirmation, but would like to do so this spring, please contact Donnie Williams at 337-1527 or donnie@fumcodessa.org.

Making A Difference In India

Rev. Arthur Raj is a disciple who is striving to make a big difference in India.

For 25 years he has given oversight to the mission based in Bangalore, India.

The purpose of the missionaries there is to establish

relationships with International students who are coming to India for their undergraduate

and post-graduate studies. Through friendship evangelism these students make a commitment to Jesus Christ and the Christian faith and return to countries closed off to the presentation of the gospel as Christian leaders with influence. In 2009 alone, Arthur and 8 missionaries presented the gospel to 2,300 students with 25 making a first time



Two college buddies hanging out together on a Friday afternoon: Rev. Arthur Raj and Rev. Terry Tamplen.

commitment to Christ. The ongoing financial need for the missionaries is \$250.00 per month.

Several years ago Arthur established a Bible College to train many of the students they convert as missionaries, pastors and leaders of full-time ministries. The Bible College has been growing, but still needs a roof for the chapel and flooring for the entire building. Those needs amount to about \$5,000.00 each. The Bible College also operates without electricity which is a crucial and immediate need with a price tag of \$10,000.00. Arthur shared these ongoing needs and immediate needs with FUMC on January 24, 2010. Please pray with me that God will meet these needs and prosper the good work being done in India.

Thank you,
Terry

**Risk-Taking
Mission&Service**

Church Member Expands Her Ministry

 **Al-Anon/Alateen**

Welcome to
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS



Al Anon offers strength and hope for friends and families of problem drinkers. It is estimated that each alcoholic affects the lives of at least four other people... alcoholism is truly a family disease. No matter what relationship you have with an alcoholic, whether they are still drinking or not, all who have been affected by someone

else's drinking can find solutions that lead to serenity in the Al-Anon fellowship.

I am involved with the recovery programs that meet at the St. Barnabus church library, 4141 Tanglewood, here in Odessa. There are 3 meetings a week. The meetings are open, meaning that all are welcome. —Becki Smith

Open AA Tuesdays 7:30 pm
Open Al Anon Thursdays 7:30 pm
Open Al Anon Step/Tradition/Concept Study Sundays 7:30 pm

Birthdays February 1—February 28, 2010



<p><u>February 1</u> Vera Baza Robert Flaherty Kristy Stephens</p>	<p><u>February 5</u> Steve Storm</p> <p><u>February 6</u> Jake Frost</p> <p><u>February 7</u> Letha Allen Bob Girard Grant Lehr Emily Osborn</p>	<p><u>February 12</u> Kendra Martinez Wilma Tune</p> <p><u>February 13</u> Sherry Buck Janet Cabra Alice Learned Greg Terrell</p> <p><u>February 15</u> Gregg Bailey Steve Borchert Jaden Chavez</p> <p><u>February 16</u> Brylee Latham</p> <p><u>February 17</u> Karen Burroughs Hank Jones</p> <p><u>February 18</u> Wesley Coursey</p>	<p>Ross Doran Mason Vincent Sylvia Watts</p> <p><u>February 19</u> Jean Jones Dee Melton</p> <p><u>February 20</u> Caroline Howard</p> <p><u>February 22</u> Gary Leathers Bob Miller</p> <p><u>February 23</u> Anne Acreman Lauren Browning Kari Halldorson Ali Morgan Meg Morgan</p> <p><u>February 24</u> Barbara Graff</p>	<p>Jami Taliaferro</p> <p><u>February 25</u> Julie Drainer Alexis Galaviz Beau Wright</p> <p><u>February 26</u> Allie Allgood Leslie King Ruth Ann McQuitty</p> <p><u>February 27</u> H.C. Banfill Lucile Bellican Sallie Gage Dorothy Gibson Dustin Taliaferro</p> <p><u>February 28</u> Logan Cox Gregory Olson Valerie Minyen</p>
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Our heartfelt sympathy to...

...Dana, Mickey, Wesley and Blake Estep for the loss of Dana's father and Wesley and Blake's grandfather,
James Richard Wiggs

...friends and family of Irene Berger
...friends and family of Gary Callaway



Children's Clothes Closet

In memory of
Tom Cottingham
Given by
Sue & Don Wright

In memory of
Clearance Kenley Sr.
Given by
Robbie Brazelton

In memory of
Ellis Rutherford
Given by
Vicki Dublin Patrick

Sanctuary Renovations

In memory of
Irene Berger
Given by
Sue & Don Wright

Youth Fund
In memory of:
Ruff Ahders
Jackie Hanson
Given by
Cynthia & Phil Fouche

Memorial Fund
In memory of
C.R. Crawley
Given by
Mr. & Mrs. C.W. Crawley

In memory of
Betty Bryant
Given by
Lynn & Randy Correa

Food Pantry

In memory of
Ann Shroeter
Given by
Mary Jane & Gary Malone

In memory of:
Maria Martinez
Twila Morgan
Given by
Boosters SS Class

Patio Fund
In memory of
John Goodman
Given by
Cynthia & Phil Fouche

Shared Ministries
In memory of
Don Flowers
Given by
Glenda Wilkins

ANNOUNCING

Grady Linn Brazelton
Born December 16, 2009



Congratulations to
proud parents
Sara & Bryan Brazelton
proud grandparents
Robbie & Dan Brazelton
proud great grandparents Minnie
Goodman and
Bodine Brazelton



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Join Us This Sunday

8:00 AM	Early Bible Class
9:00 AM	Traditional Worship —Sanctuary
10:00 AM	Sunday School, all ages
11:00 AM	Contemporary Worship —Fellowship Hall

First United Methodist Church, Odessa, Texas, founded in 1890, is a community of Christians who have pledged to support this church with their presence, their service, their gifts and their prayers. We dedicate ourselves to spreading God’s Word throughout our community and to providing meaningful worship experiences, fellowship, and opportunities to fulfill the teachings of Jesus Christ through a variety of ministries. As United Methodists, “our doors, our hearts and our minds are open to all those who seek God’s Grace.”
The *CULTIVATOR* is a monthly publication whose exclusive purpose is to help FUMC-Odessa accomplish its Mission by communicating and “cultivating” the presence of Christ in the lives of this congregation.

In response to the Haiti earthquake:
The New Mexico Conference Disaster and VIM (Volunteers in Mission) offices are asking for UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) health kit supplies.

UMCOR specifically DOES NOT WANT the kits made up, they just want the various supplies that go into a kit.
First UMC-Odessa will be this area’s drop-off location for the Conference for health kit supplies. We will collect supplies in the church front office and in the Cornerstone/8:00 SS Room.

Remember-- UMCOR is requesting supplies—not packed kits. A truck from UMCOR will come here to the church to pick up these supplies. The Cornerstone Class will box the supplies that have been collected and get them ready for the truck.
You are also encouraged to make donations to the **ADVANCE 418325 for Haiti emergency relief**. For more information please call Mary White at 915-494-3177 or email mwhite1@elp.rr.com.

Please drop off supplies plus a check for \$1 to help UMCOR Sager Brown with the costs of processing and shipping the supplies to Haiti.

Supplies for each kit

- 1 hand towel (15" x 25" up to 17" x 27", No kitchen towels)
- 1 washcloth
- 1 comb (large and sturdy, not pocket-sized)
- 1 nail file or fingernail clippers (no emery boards or toenail clippers)
- 1 bath-size bar of soap (3 oz. and up)
- 1 toothbrush (single brushes only in original wrapper, No child-size brushes)
- 6 adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages
- \$1.00 to purchase toothpaste (*NOTE: UMCOR Sager Brown is now purchasing toothpaste in bulk to be added to health kits before shipping to ensure that the product does not expire before they are sent.*)

Important Information

- All items included in kits must be NEW items.
- All emergency kits are carefully planned to make them usable in the greatest number of situations. Since strict rules often govern product entry into international countries, it is important that kits contain only the requested items-nothing more.
- Do NOT include any personal notes, money or additional materials. These things must be painstakingly removed and will delay the shipment.