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CULTIVATOR

Cultivating Christ's Presence in Our Congregation

Volume 8, Issue 1

January 13, 2010

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.

Children's Ministry



Hey K-6th Graders — Come Join the Fun!

We are going on a

Service Scavenger Hunt!

Having lots of crazy fun while helping people in our community!

Sunday, January 24 — 4-6 p.m.

Adult Ministry

Join us for
Lifelinks
Membership Class

January 31

12:15—2:15 p.m.
(includes lunch)

Parlor

Want to find out how God has uniquely S.H.A.P.E.d you for ministry and service?

Join us for
Lifelines
Ministry Class

February 3 & February 10

6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Wild Game Dinner — A Chance To Express Radical Hospitality

It is difficult to figure out how to reach those who are titled 'the unchurched.' It is even more difficult to figure out how to reach men who are part of that 'unchurched' category. Our next outreach is designed to appeal to a very specific group of men: hunters and outdoor enthusiasts. The **Wild Game Dinner** on January 22 is an opportunity for the men of our church to invite other men to an evening of 'manly fellowship' centered around wild game dishes procured by hunters, talk about hunting, chances to win hunting equipment, and a program about the great outdoors. The speaker for the evening will be Dr. Louis Harveson of Sul Ross University. He is the director of the Borderlands Research Institute for National Resource Management. A review of his work at the Sul Ross website, www.sulross.edu/brinrm, provides a visually



stunning example of what a treat the Wild Game Dinner discussion will be.

Paraphrasing the old saying, "Behind every great man stands a woman," Outreach Ministry Director Kris Riley jokes that for this to be a great event for men, the special touches created by church women are definitely needed and certainly appreciated. Special recipes, homemade desserts and decorating the fellowship hall are the special touches that will create a festive atmosphere for the event.

Prizes include a shotgun and rifle donated by Chaparral Industries, Inc., a dove hunt donated by the Blain Ranch, a hunting knife, gift cards and more!

If you can help in any way please contact Kris at krisriley@fumcodessa.org or call 967-2312.



Louis Harveson
Sul Ross Univ.

New Year Brings New Faces And New Positions To Staff

There is a new face in the offices of First United Methodist Church-Odessa. Her name is Mary Blain and her position is financial manager for the church. Mary assumed the post on Jan. 4 and replaces Thelma Reeves, who has resigned to take on several active roles in her own church, Terrace Hills Baptist Church. There she will be church administrator and assist in the youth ministry and the ladies ministry.



Mary Blain
Financial Manager

"It is something I have been wanting to do," Thelma said, "and something I feel called to do." Thelma has been with FUMC-Odessa for nine and a half years. She will remain on the job until Jan. 29 to ensure a smooth transition to the new financial manager.

The church received more than 40 applications for the job. Senior pastor Terry Tamplen said that after sifting through the resumes and holding several interviews, Mary was clearly the best choice.

If you detect a slight accent in her speech, it's because Mary is a native of Venezuela. She holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from a university in Venezuela and a master's in business administration-accounting from the University of Phoenix.

Mary comes to Odessa from Artesia, N.M. where she lives with her husband, Steven, an employee of BJ Services. In Artesia, she worked six and a half years as an accountant for Yates Petroleum. Mary has one daughter and three step-children, and the Blains have five grandchildren. Mary and Steven decided to move to Odessa to be closer to family. Mary's mother-in-law lives in Monahans and her step-son, who recently returned from military service in Iraq, attends Odessa College. Her daughter also lives in the area. The Blains are still looking for a house and look forward to the move.

"I am very excited to be in Odessa and to have this position with the church," Mary said. "Everyone has been very nice."
—LaDoyce Lambert

Wii Are Growing Stronger as Diisciples!



Terry Tamplen
Senior Pastor

Three Ways Wii Can Grow Stronger as Diisciples!

“Measuring... measuring... all done! Those are the words I hear almost every day as I step on to my Wii Fit board for my Body Test and get measured for weight change, body mass index, and balance. The measurement gives me information regarding my present strength and health. Then I continue the training exercises that will make me stronger. So what if First United Methodist Church could take a “Body Test” & step on to a “Dii”scipleship Fitness board measuring the practices that give disciples information on their progress towards greater health and fruitfulness? Let’s look at measurements in three areas:

Measuring... Radical Hospitality:

- a. **Wii are strong** – Trained greeters and everyone in general do a great job of welcoming newcomers and taking them to the person or place they need to find.
- b. **Diisciples get stronger by initiating relationships** – Take the next step and invite newcomers with whom you share affinity to join you for lunch. Invite them to your Sunday School or small group or an event coming up at FUMC.

Measuring... Passionate Worship:

- a. **Wii are strong** – Worship attendance increased 10% last year to average 300 for 2009. More people are coming more often, inviting others and bringing others with them.
- b. **Diisciples get stronger in reaching out** – Our worship attendance goal for 2010 is to increase average attendance by another 20% or to 360 by year end. A 20% increase of inviting and bringing by all of us will get us to this goal!

Measuring... Extravagant Generosity:

- a. **Wii are strong** – We are a generous congregation! We met our 2009 budget and paid **100%** of our Shared Ministries for the 7th year consecutively. Wiiiiiiiiiiii!!! Designated giving was substantial, as well as giving above and beyond to projects such as the sanctuary renovation.
- b. **Diisciples get stronger in consistency** – We continue to see giving diminish during the summer and early fall months, therefore we struggle to catch-up during December. Increasing consistency in our giving will make a huge difference in 2010.

Measuring... measuring... measuring... all done!

6 Practices
of a
Fruitful
Congregation

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

GodSpeed And A Fond Farewell To Jeanie

Dear First UMC Family,

Words are not adequate to express my gratitude to all of you for your extravagant generosity – for your many generous gifts, for your words of encouragement and love, for your cards and notes and so many expressions of love and appreciation, for all the ways you have supported me, extended grace to me, taught me, inspired me, and most of all loved me throughout the four and a half years I have had the privilege of serving with you.

You will always have a very special place in my heart, and I know that God will continue to bless your ministry as you continue to find more and more ways to LOVE your neighbors, INVITE them to join you as you FOLLOW Christ, who EMPOWERS you to make a difference!

Yours in Christ,
Jeanie Williams

Jody Looking Forward To New Responsibilities

With Associate Pastor Jeanie Williams moving to a church of her own in Abilene, Senior Pastor Terry Tamplen has announced that Jody Wallin will assume many of her duties.

Terry said that while the position of associate pastor will not be filled as such, Jeanie's former roles in discipleship development, small group oversight, Sunday School curriculum and outreach ministries will be shifted to Jody.

“It is actually just an extension of what he is already doing,” Terry said. Jody currently has responsibilities in many areas of congregational care and the Stephen Ministry program. “Jody has the gifts and graces for congregational ministry,” Terry said. “It just resonates with who he is.”

In order to take on the additional duties, Jody will give up one of his passions of the last several years, that of music worship leader for the contemporary services. Resumes for a part-time leader for that spot are being considered, and a replacement could be brought on board by the end of the month.

The decision to go this route, following a departing associate, results from a recommendation made by consultant Bill Easum. During his evaluation of the church some months ago, Easum noted that it was his opinion that FUMC-Odessa was overstaffed. He did not recommend any immediate change, but said when the occasion presented itself, some consideration should be given to reducing the staff.

Terry said this recommendation entered into his decision, as well as the fact that a current staff member had the ability to assume a major load from the former associate.

For his part, Jody said he is “excited and very humbled and honored to be approached” for this new role. “I look forward to integrating what Jeanie did with what I already do,” he said.

He will continue to direct the Stephen Ministry program, which he did jointly with Jeanie, and he will continue Jeanie's work with the Spice of Life senior's group and the Brown Bag Bible Study on Mondays. He will be the “first responder” for hospital visitations, reporting back to Terry and associate pastor Donnie Williams for follow-up visits.

Jody said one of his biggest challenges will be working with Terry and volunteer Karin Carlson on building and developing the LIFE Academy, which includes *l-i-f-e-l-i-n-k-s*, the membership arm; *l-i-f-e-l-i-n-e-s* which focuses on Christian maturity;

l-i-f-e-l-a-n-e-s, dedicated to finding the right ministry for lay persons; and *l-i-f-e-l-e-a-p-s* which is concerned with mission and outreach.

Another duty will be to work with small groups. He is currently assimilating information about small groups which he hopes will be finished by the end January, so that the congregation will know which groups still are functioning, what they are studying and activities planned. Encouragement to start new groups also will be part of the effort.

Jody said he feels that “God has been preparing me for this role,” and that he is grateful for the encouragement he has received. He added that, “I am very much at peace with this decision and look forward to the challenge.” —LaDoyce Lambert



Jody Wallin
Congregational Care
Ministry

The congregation said farewell to Rev. Jeanie Williams at a reception on Dec. 20. Jeanie is now the senior pastor at St. James UMC-Abilene. Wishing her God's blessings are (L-R) Lynn VanAmburgh, Mike Parker, and Wilma Tune.



Welcome New Members



Stacy and Justin Fanning, pictured with sons Nolin (3) and Dillon (2), joined by Profession of Faith in October. Stacy is a homemaker and nursing student. Justin is an oilfield electrician for Sun Electric. The couple is originally from Fort Worth. They came to FirstUMC through our Mother's Day Out program.



Brad Watts joined in December by Profession of Faith. His wife Sylvia joined in the summer of 2009. Brad is a Senior Materials Coordinator for Halliburton Energy Services. He decided to join FirstUMC because of "the people, the pastor, and the teachings—they are terrific!"

Are You Ready To Re-Group?
LIFE Group Sign-ups
Sundays, January 17, 24, 31
Or sign-up online at www.fumcodessa.org.

Finance Secretary Says Good Bye

Dear FUMC Family, I say goodbye with great appreciation for the opportunities for professional and personal development that you have provided me during the last nine and a half years. I have served under and with some very special people and thank the Lord and First Methodist for the experience.

I have enjoyed working at First United Methodist and appreciate the support you provided me during my tenure with the church. I have taken great pleasure in working with you and wish you well in your future endeavors. I know that God is well pleased with First and has many more blessings in store for you.

Thank you to the SPRC and First United Methodist for the many good years I have enjoyed as your Finance Secretary and Office Manager. I leave with many special memories, and love for each person in the church.

In His Service, *Thelma Reeves*



Thelma Reeves

Birthdays January 16– February 15, 2010

January 17
Justin Fanning

January 18
Charles Berlin
Don Blair
Lance Brooks
Carole Lucas

January 19
Courtney Carlson
Jean Gillen
Marcy Weatherby

January 20
Teresa Owens
Steve Riley

January 21
Chris Garrett
Jessie Scott
Karen Ward

January 22
Glenn Smith

January 24
Judy Withrow

January 25
Ramesh Christian
Tammy Hawkins
Kelsea Parker
Maxine Smith
Linda Terrell

January 26
Alison Blount
Chase Gilbert
Christine Storm

January 27
Jennifer Collins
Lynn Correa
Marie Robertson

January 28
Sally Hollon

January 30
Phillip Collins
Lauren Elrod
Christi Hansen

January 31
Nolin Fanning

February 1
Vera Baza
Robert Flaherty
Kristy Stephens

February 2
Alissa Goates
Mariel McLemore
Howard Millsap
Tom Rodman
Jeanie Williams

February 3
Vicky Tessaro

February 4
Brock Bizzell
Ashlee Thompson

February 5
Steve Storm

February 6
Jake Frost

February 7
Letha Allen
Bob Girard
Grant Lehr
Emily Osborn

February 8
Mary Sue Carey

February 9
Jim Hollis
Jack Lambert

February 10
Matt Furst

February 11
Mildred Bridwell

February 12
Kendra Martinez
Wilma Tune

February 13
Sherry Buck
Janet Cabra
Alice Learned
Greg Terrell

February 15
Greg Bailey
Steve Borchert
Jaden Chavez



ANNOUNCING
Lainey Ann Wimberley
Born Dec. 11, 2009
Weighed 6 lbs 14.5 oz



Congratulations to proud parents
Jennifer & Landon Wimberley.
Proud grandparents
Roxan & Tim Jones
Christi & Mike Hickman

Our heartfelt sympathy to...

...Paula & Danny Pool for the loss of Danny's cousin, Thomas Edward Pool.
 ...Parker Sands, Carson Sands and Davis Accadia for the loss of their grandfather, George Accadia, Sr.
 ...Reagan & Brian Whytlaw for the loss of Brian's grandmother, Ann Shroeter.
 ...Ann & Stan Smith, Sam and Dan for the loss of Ann's father, Ellis Ray Rutherford.
 ...Becky & Toby Latham for the loss of Becky's grandmother, Betty Bryant.



Garden Fund
In memory of
John Goodman
Given by
Chas & Marcy
Weatherby

Memorial Fund
In memory of:
Don Flowers
John Goodman
Given by
Jean & Bill
Heggemeier

Children's Clothes
Closet Fund
In memory of
Patricia Bynum
Given by
Chrystal Fouche

Shared Ministries
Fund
In memory of
Don Flowers
Given by
Stella Bauman

In memory of
Ruby K Jones
Given by
Linda & Robert
Winston

Food Pantry Fund
In memory of
Juan Medina
Given by
Boosters Class

Sanctuary
Renovation Fund
In memory of
Truman McCreless
Given by
Kay & Phil Szenasi

HONORARIA

Honoraria Fund
In honor of:
Lynn & Randy Correa
An Ell Crudup
Chrystal Fouche
Virginia McLemore
Mike & Barbara
Norris
Given by
Pat & Glen Larum

Traditional
Worship Fund
In honor of
Betsy & Buzz Hurt
Given by
Gloria & LaDoyce
Lambert

Choir Fund
In honor of
Gayle Bizzell
Shari Santorelli
Randy Talley
Given by
Tricia Elrod

Visual highlights of 2009 Christmas Celebrations

SHARING JOY



Dick Sivalls lights the candle that Dee Melton is holding during the 7:00 Christmas Eve worship service. The picture to the right shows the point of view from the choir loft during the singing of *Silent Night*. Right at 1,000 people attend all three Christmas Eve worship services.



An earthly gathering of heavenly angels get ready to sing during the Christmas Eve worship service.



The 11:00 worship service ends with college students posing for a group picture by the Christmas tree. As is tradition, the returning students conduct the joyful service.

Enjoy more pictures of the holiday season on the web at fumcodessa.org.



The Sunflowers LIFE Group gathered in the home of Peggy Hundley to celebrate the season. (L-R) Peggy Hundley, Jane Reid, Ruth Searls, Jeanie Williams, Lura Sivalls, Deanna King & Sally Allen.



Larry Hackleman and grandson, Jaxon Foster, enjoy the Christmas Eve program.