



# CULTIVATOR

Cultivating Christ's Presence in Our Congregation  
Volume 9, Issue 5  
April 15, 2011

Praise to the Father ... to Him we will sing ... Now we can be called the children of God



Our children of God, ages 2 years up to teens, sing a joyful *Children Of God* in celebration on Sunday, April 3.

## We Are Blessed

It was April 3, 2011. The last worship service of the campaign was over. Commitments had been placed in the decorative bowl near the altar. Fellowship Hall was filled with church members enjoying a homecooked meal.

Most were having dessert when an emotional *Imagine More* campaign chair Cindy Fowler took the microphone. It took a few seconds for her to get the words out. When all the pledge cards and "first fruit" gifts were added up, **\$1.6 million of the \$1.8 million goal had been raised.**

"I still get choked up over how successful the campaign has been," Cindy said later. She paid tribute to "the best leadership team ever," explaining that everyone did their job and more. "It was an honor to work with them, and I couldn't be happier with the results." She said it was particularly gratifying to see the younger members of her team, "the 30-somethings," step up, work hard and provide excellent leadership during the campaign. "The future of the church is in good hands," she added.

(Continued on page 4)

## Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday  
April 17  
9:00 & 11:00

Holy Thursday  
April 21  
7:00 p.m.  
Sanctuary



**Easter Sunday — April 24**

**9:00 - Traditional Worship**  
Sanctuary

**10:00 - Contemporary Worship**  
**11:00 - Contemporary Worship**  
Rodman Fellowship Hall

## Students Of All Ages: Confirmands Begin Their Walk...



Eight young people comprise the 2011 Confirmation Class. Confirmation is a six-week study of what it means to be a disciple of Christ. Shown above are the students with their Prayer Partners, who will remember them in daily prayer. Class members are front row (L-R) Dylan White, Alex Wilson, Michaela Smith, Sydney Laing. Second row: Parker Leverett, Bryson Rolls, Michaela Hansen, youth leader Jordan Lee (standing in back), Elizabeth Forsyth and adult leader Christy Lewis. Other adult and youth leaders and prayer partners pictured in back: (L-R) Chas Weatherby, Betsy Triplett-Hurt, Marcy Weatherby, Schuyler Stallcup, Donnie Williams, Bill and Lynda Fowler, Russell and Beverley Kimble, Karin Carlson and Rita Dupree. Confirmation Sunday is May 1.

March 31 was the final class for this year's Stephen Ministry students. They are pictured here after a worship service that was part of the final lesson. These people have completed 50 hours of intensive training required to be commissioned as Stephen Ministers. I, along with Pastor Terry and our other two Stephen Leaders, Anne Acreman and Wilma Tune, welcome each of them into our family of Stephen Ministers, and I know that they will be providing, as are our other Stephen Ministers, the very best Christian caregiving that can be provided for our congregation. Congratulations on becoming our newest Stephen Ministers!

*Jody Wallin  
Minister of Congregational Care  
Stephen Ministry Leader*

## ... New Stephen Ministers Extend Their Journey



Another group of church students is pictured here, the 2011 class of Stephen Ministers. Front row (L-R): Rita Dupree, Julie Brown, Chilsun Marsh. Back row: Beverley Kimble, Jody Wallin (Stephen Leader), Carole Millsap and Danny Sellars.

# Sharing God's Love In Our Community In These Ways:



## 3rd Annual Golf Clinic for Kids

Saturday, April 30 9:00—11:30 a.m.

One Day at Two Locations!

Ages 6-8 - Champions Golf Range  
 Ages 9-12 - Ratliff Ranch Golf Links  
 Driving Range

Want To Help?  
 Contact Jasmine Feagan or Jeff Rea,  
 333-4106

Sponsored by: First United Methodist Church~Cashway Lumber~  
 Champion Golf Range~Golf Etc.~Odessa College Wranglers~  
 Odessa High Boys/Girls Golf~Permian High Boys/Girls Golf~  
 Ratliff Ranch Golf Links Driving Range~The Day Game~  
 West Texas Insurance Exchange, Inc.

<b>Radical Hospitality</b>	<b>Extravagant Generosity</b>
<b>Sharing Love</b>	<b>Risk-Taking Mission&amp;Service</b>

## Sharing Life Sunday May 1

Regular Worship and  
 Sunday School Schedule

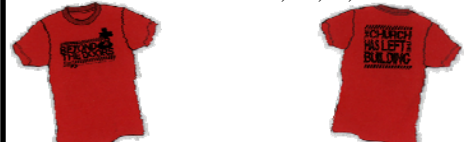
Afternoon Community  
 Outreach Projects

Evening cookout  
 at the church

### \$5 Sharing Life T-Shirts

Order by contacting Kris Riley  
 ASAP at 337-1527 or kris-  
 riley@fumcodessa.org.

Adult sizes:  
 S, M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL, XXXXL  
 Children's sizes: S, M, L, XL



Prayer Team leader Marsha Melton presents a cross to Rev. Donnie Williams on Saturday, April 2 at the proposed north campus. Donnie will develop the mission field in north Odessa.

Wilma Tune is pictured below as she walks the mowed path outlining part of the north property. She is reading one of the displays showing some of the different ministries of our church. A prayer walk was also conducted at the downtown campus with similar displays. The prayer walk was intended as a time of reflection for church members and of praying for the church to be united in mission and vision and empowered by the Holy Spirit to *imagine more* as we seek to make a difference in the world around us.



**Risk-Taking Mission & Service**

Church members gather at north campus to walk, to pray, to imagine.



(Top & below R) Jack Brazile and Sadie Yancey are two of our youngest members who will benefit from the campaign.



Beth Brinker holds a table decoration, which highlights one of the outreach ministries of First United Methodist.

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Although grateful for the dollars that have been pledged, for Senior Pastor Terry Tamplen the success of the *Imagine More* campaign was about more than money. "It was a defining moment for our church," he said. "It was a statement from the congregation that we do want to be defined by our vision: To be a community that welcomes all people into life-changing relationships with God and others."

Describing it as "a means to an end," Terry said the success of the campaign represented "another step on our spiritual journey," and that it was "a healthy, unifying buy-in from the church," showing an awareness that "we are all in this journey together."

Terry said it was rewarding to see a broad participation in the campaign from within the membership of the church. "Many stepped outside their giving comfort zone to take part in this campaign," he said. He added that he felt confident when all were given the opportunity, the goal would be reached.

An important aspect of the campaign was that an astounding \$600,000 was given in cash. Campaign leaders had hoped for enough cash to fund the first phase estimated at \$375,000. Now, there is enough money on hand not only to complete the first phase, but to get a good start on the second.



**Sharing Love**



**Passionate Worship**

The first phase includes a commitment of \$30,000 to the United Methodist Church's *Imagine No Malaria* effort in Africa as well as a playground for the daycare center which will be located between the main church building and fellowship hall, a plaza area to connect all the buildings in the downtown campus, and expansion of the fellowship hall greeting area.

Pastor Terry said that local architect Larry Johnson, who will serve as project manager, will fine tune the actual cost of the first phase so that construction can begin soon and hopefully be completed by late September. Then work can begin on the second phase, expected to cost \$340,000, primarily for the acquisition and demolition of buildings on Lee Street, across from the sanctuary, to make way for expanded church parking. Also included in this project is \$40,000 for a fire-suppression sprinkler system for the basement of the main building.

Citing their importance to the campaign, Chair Marsha Melton e-mailed her Prayer Team members: "God uses prayer to make the impossible possible and the ordinary extraordinary." And she concluded: "Our work is not done. We still need to be in prayer to continue our commitment to God and to our church."

—LaDoyce Lambert



Contemporary worship leader Jayson Hart leads in worship



**Extravagant Generosity**

Brenda Denton celebrates the exciting campaign results with Cindy Fowler.



Gratitude and joy as the campaign results are announced!



**Radical Hospitality**

Members of the MOSAIC Class serve lunch. (Back L-R) Jayme Wilson, Stefani Sheen, Kat Sims and Kelly Allgood; (Front L-R) Courtney White and Sheila Patterson.

## Food That Sustains The Soul And Fellowship To Celebrate Life

We had a wonderful Saint Patrick's Day celebration. As usual, Johnnie Williams provided the birthday cake, table decorations, and gifts for the day. Russell Kimble and Sam Howell cooked up a wonderful meal consisting of baked pork chops, new potatoes, mixed vegetables, rolls, salad, and sugar free pie! UMMMMMMM, MMMMMM! We hope you will begin attending Spice of Life if you are not already doing so. This is a special time for our Senior Adults who meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month in the Rodman Fellowship Hall at 11:30 a.m. We always have a meal and a program. Please call the church office at 337-1527, or me, if you have any questions or would like to **make a reservation for our April 21 meeting**. We will be celebrating Easter!

Grace and peace,  
Jody Wallin, Minister of Congregation Care



Lady Hawkins and Bob Winn celebrate their March birthdays at Spice of Life.



Monday Morning Manly Breakfast - Come Join Us!!

This is the most guys we have ever had!

Special thanks to Schuyler Stallcup for challenging some of the "old coots" to rethink some ministry opportunities. We invite any man interested to come to breakfast at 6:30 on Monday mornings.

We have a "stick-to-your-ribs breakfast," short devotion, discussion and fellowship. We are usually through by 7:30.

If you are coming for the first time, let the church office know, 337-1527, so we can plan for food.

—In Christ!  
Jay Stovall

### Thanks Across The Miles

In March, our home-grown missionary to China, Brandon Hembree, his wife Christine and two children, visited our church to update us on their continuing work in China. Brandon sent this letter of appreciation to the church. Several Sunday School classes support the couple with prayers and financial contributions. Brandon is the son of Karen & Don Hembree.



Chinese Symbol  
for Love

Dear First Methodist Odessa,

Thank you so much for the generous gift that you gave towards our work in China. We greatly appreciate your prayers as we fly back to Shanghai this week. As I head back to lead my team and family we need a special dose of faith in the goodness and greatness of God. Thanks again.

Love,  
Brandon & Christine Hembree  
Julia & Hudson



April 1  
Lindsey Burroughs  
Chris Withrow

April 3  
John Mason

April 4  
Kristy Cox

April 5  
Ileana Cagle  
Chrystal Fouche

April 6  
Brooke Talley

April 7  
Patsy Rushing  
Justine Ward

April 8  
Chase Claiborne  
Mason Claiborne  
Corey Herron  
Richard Tessaro  
Laura Wardlow

April 9  
John Berry  
Josh Dickerson

April 10  
John Michael Allbright  
Lynda Fowler  
Eddie Guilbeau  
Joe Laughlin

April 11  
Hayley Hart

April 12  
Julie Brown  
Ragon Gilbert

April 13  
Connie Burleson  
Debbie Douglass  
Nancy Wells

April 14  
Sally Osborn

April 15  
Melanie Key  
Russell Kimble  
Keri Lucas  
Katy Shelton

April 17  
Jason Wood

April 18  
Alex Wilson

April 20  
Gunner Gardenhire  
Susie Williams

April 21  
Dorothy Simpson

April 22  
Julie Flowers  
Haven Halldorson

April 23  
Macy Drainer

April 27  
Sarah Mazur

April 28  
Phil Fouche  
Peggy Wallin

April 29  
Chase Cawthron  
Buzz Hurt

April 30  
Casey Guerrero  
Kaitlyn Riley  
Austin Shelton

## Memorials

Memorial Fund  
In memory of  
**Fred McMinn**

Given by  
Mr. & Mrs. Baxter Breaux

General Fund  
In memory of  
**Fred McMinn**

Given by  
Dana Ashton

Imagine More Campaign

In memory of  
**Fred McMinn**

Given by  
David & Kate Iglesias

In memory of  
**Grace Miller**

Given by  
Marty and Floy Hinson

Youth Fund  
In memory of  
**Teresa Fuentes**  
Given by  
Eddie Guilbeau

Children's Clothes Closet

In memory of  
**Fred McMinn**

Given by  
Manuel & Evelyn Gonzalez

## Honoraria

UMCOR-Japan  
In honor of  
**Melissa Crutchfield**  
Given by  
8:00 Sunday School



Congratulations to  
Lora & Chad Kirkland  
on the birth of their daughter,  
**Mary Elizabeth Kirkland**

born on March 11, 2011  
7 lbs & 9 ozs

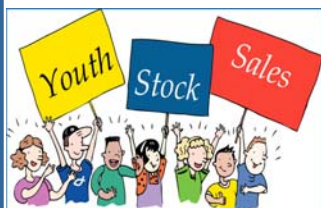
Proud Sister is Kylie Kirkland  
Grandparents are Tom & Tammy Hawkins  
Great Grandparents are Buddy & Lady Hawkins



To Jennifer Myers  
in the loss of her grandmother  
**Martha Myers**

To Marvin Wilkins and Marla Wilkins  
in the loss of their wife and mother  
**Judi Wilkins**

To Cindy Lewis, Karen Ward,  
Christy Lewis & Joshua, and  
Randy & Melissa Lewis & Colton  
in the loss of their grandmother and great-grandmother  
**Helen Strawn**



**April 18, 19 & 25**  
*Please be generous in  
your support for our  
Summer Youth  
Mission Trips*



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Enjoy The Cultivator On-line

**Bring A Friend 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 bi-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.

# Welcome New Members



Jayson and Amanda Hart joined on April 3 by transfer of membership. Jayson serves on staff as the leader of the Praise Team and worship leader for the 11:00 Contemporary service, and Amanda sings on the Praise Team. Jayson and Amanda have two children, Hayley (4) and Hagen (2), who attend our FUMC Children’s Center. Jayson is a choral director at Bonham Junior High and Amanda is the elementary AVID Administrator for ECISD. They were invited to check out FirstUMC by Randy Talley and felt an immediate connection to this congregation.



Rebecca Christian joined on April 3 by transfer of membership. She is a licensed professional counselor for the Ector County Youth Center, BCA, and has a private counseling practice. Rebecca attends the Traditional service and is part of an “I Am Second” Group and the Characters Sunday School Class. She found our church on the internet and says, “I joined because I think FUMC is the most awesome church and that we have the best Sunday School Class ever!”