

Resurrection Sunday: 'I am the door...'



"I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture."

Rev. Terry Tamplen used this scripture from John 10:9 on Easter to begin a sermon series called *Doors*. A real door was used to demonstrate how Jesus gives believers "all access, all the time" to God. How do I practically incorporate this spiritual reality into my life on a daily basis? What does that look like? Find out as we move through this life-changing sermon series over the next four weeks!



Pictured above right: 8:00 Sunday School Class members Lynn Correa and Letha Allen lovingly finish adorning the altar cross with flowers prior to the traditional Easter worship service. The flowers are gathered by members to represent prayers for loved ones. The cross is draped with a black cloth at the beginning of the worship service to represent the darkness from the crucifixion on Good Friday. Its unveiling represents the glorious light of the resurrection.



Left: Daniece Hagen and Marlene Rogers pick up a door key from the altar railing during the 9:00 traditional worship service. The keys were painted red on one side to represent the blood of Christ. The other side was painted white to represent our salvation through Christ who was raised from the dead to give us new life with resurrection power!

PRACTICE CONTINUES AT FUMC ODESSA! PASSIONATE WORSHIP



Terry Tamplen
Senior Pastor

Vibrant, fruitful, growing churches offer Passionate Worship that connects people to God and one another. People gather consciously as the Body of Christ with eagerness and expectancy; encounter Christ through singing, prayer, Scripture, preaching and Holy Communion; and respond by allowing God's Spirit to shape their lives.

Lives shaped by God's Spirit become the nucleus for congregations with extraordinary warmth, graciousness, and belonging.

People are searching for worship that is authentic, alive, creative, and comprehensible, where they experience the life-changing presence of God in the

presence of others. God uses worship to transform lives, heal wounded souls, renew hope, shape decisions, provoke change, inspire compassion, and bind people to one another. God through Christ actively seeks relationship to us through worship.

Through Radical Hospitality congregations offer the gracious invitation of Christ, open doors to relationship, and foster a sense of belonging.

Through Passionate Worship God draws people to Christ (many for the first time), deepens understanding and relationship with Christ, and over time transforms lives as disciples grow in the image of Christ.

Passionate Worship happens when we participate wholeheartedly in the worship experience!

See you at practice this Sunday,

Terry

Stephen Minister Trainees Answer, 'Yes, with the help of God.'



New Stephen Ministers: Jody Wallin, Peggy Wallin, Dr. John Mark Weaver, Cheryl Sellars, Kyrsten Nall, Jonnie Hackleman, Rhonda Ferguson, Susan Butler, Dr. Anne Acreman, and (not pictured) Rev. Jeanie Williams.

Our first graduating class of Stephen Ministers recently completed their initial 50 hours of training and were commissioned on April 5. As Stephen Ministers, they will be assigned to one care receiver, and they will meet with that person for about an hour each week. This relationship will last for as long as the care receiver needs Stephen Ministry. This relationship is strictly confidential in nature, and the care receiver's identity is never revealed nor publicized in any way.

Potential care receivers initially meet with Jody Wallin or Jeanie Williams, our Stephen Leaders, who will assess the appropriateness of Stephen Ministry for their particular situation and explain the process to the person. If the Stephen Leader determines that Stephen Ministry is the appropriate ministry to meet the needs of this particular individual, they will assign a Stephen Minister

as one becomes available. Care receivers who can greatly benefit from Stephen Ministry are generally people who have experienced some kind of life crisis, such as a serious or debilitating illness or injury, a loss through death, divorce, or other separation, or who have experienced some kind of life transition, such as job layoff, retirement, moving from home into assisted living, the birth of a child, an empty nest, etc.

Stephen Ministers volunteer two years of their service to our church family in exchange for the training. They may then "retire," go on sabbatical, or continue as a Stephen Minister on an indefinite basis.

To become a Stephen Minister or to be considered for a Stephen Minister's care, please contact Pastor Terry Tamplen or our current Stephen Ministry Leaders, Pastor Jeanie Williams or Jody Wallin.

Palm Sunday Holy Baptisms



Natalie Alvarez is immersed during the contemporary worship service on Palm Sunday. She and her son, Josh Dickerson, are pictured here as Rev. Terry Tamplen is assisted by Rev. Donnie Williams. Not shown are the baptisms of her daughter Amy Dickerson and also of Shonna Estep.

Raleigh Gregston was baptized on Palm Sunday. He is pictured with his mother, Traci.

Photos courtesy of Robert Flaherty

Dear Members of FUMC-Odessa:

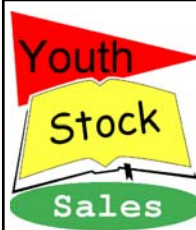
By now, you should have heard that the 2009 New Mexico Annual Conference will be hosted in Odessa, TX. We are very excited about this opportunity. There are a few items that I want to share with our local churches.



1. All sessions and worship services are open to the public. Opening Worship along with all business sessions will be at the MCM Grande, 6201 E. Business 20. Worship on Thursday and Friday evening will be at the Ector Junior High School, 809 W. Clements.
 2. There will be a kick off dinner on Wed., June 3 (6:00pm) at First United Methodist and the Noel Heritage Park at Lee and 5th Street. If you wish to attend the dinner you MUST pre-register with the New Mexico Conference office at www.nmconfum.com. Conference participants will also have to register. There will NOT be tickets available at the door.
 3. We need volunteers for a variety of jobs throughout the week. If you have not yet signed up at your local church, you may volunteer by calling Highland UMC, 432-332-0261.
 4. There will be a youth event for teens 7-12 grade on Thursday night, June 4. More information will be coming soon.
 5. More service opportunities will be discussed in the next issue of the Cultivator.
- This is a great opportunity to let our light shine in keeping with the conference theme: **ARISE! SHINE!** Join us in welcoming our brothers and sisters from around New Mexico and West Texas.

Sincerely,

Rev. Kevin Bushart, Chairperson—The 2009 Annual Conference Planning Committee



Outreach is a very important part of our ministry to youth at First Methodist. During the year we have been involved in several different local outreach opportunities. We have served at the West Texas Food Bank, delivered Thanksgiving Baskets to local residents, and most recently, hosted a party for a local nursing home. Each summer our youth join with other Methodist churches to serve in communities outside of our local setting. We partner with United Methodist agencies to support their mission and ministry.

This summer our junior high will be traveling to Presidio, Texas to partner with Rev. Francisco Escalera and the Recreational Center there in Presidio. We will be working on the church at the center as well as at homes in the community. We are excited about the chance to help him minister to the people in his community.

Our high school students will be traveling to Anniston, Alabama, where we will be partnering with the United Methodist Community Enabler. This has been a place we have served several times over the years. The Community Enabler helps with residents who live in extremely poor communities surrounding Anniston. We will be working on residents' homes as well as leading Vacation Bible School to the children at one of the outreach centers. The centers bring in a ray of hope to children who face very difficult situations. I am proud of our church for having sponsored both of our projects this year in such awesome ways.

In the coming weeks, students will be calling on you to partner with us as we raise funds to go on these important trips. They will be offering you an opportunity to join us through your financial support. We are selling "shares" of stock in our trips. These shares enable students to participate in these summer mission outreaches. Each share is tax deductible. You can buy as many as you like. And, unlike the stock market, the value of these stocks will only go up as they benefit not only the people we serve, but impact our students and ministry as well.

We trust you will be generous in your support of these students as they contact you. You may also purchase shares by contacting the church office directly. Thank you so much for all you do for our ministry and for impacting the lives of our teens!

Holy Week Activities: Reflecting God's Love For Us



Twelve candles are extinguished during Maundy Thursday's Tenebrae service. As scriptures are read telling the story of betrayal by the disciples during Christ's last hours, a candle is snuffed, until only the lone Christ candle remains. It, too, is extinguished, depicting the death of Christ. The bare altar and three crosses evoke the darkness of the crucifixion.



Raleigh Gregston writes the name of a person to pray for during the Palm Sunday contemporary service. Life-size doors adorned the walls as a prelude to the *Doors* sermon series.

Palm Sunday was confirmation day for Abigail Furst. For her, the confirmation process was a time of learning more about the Bible and Jesus and her church. Abigail is pictured below with her prayer partner Peggy Wallin, parents Matt and Suzette Furst, sister Emily, and grandparents Doug and Kay Whitefield.



The three crosses from Maundy Thursday were placed in the narthex of the sanctuary for the triumph of Easter Sunday. A shining white cloth replaces the black cloth to depict the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

'Senior' Prom Blends Age With Youth For A Special Night



The senior and junior high students at First-Odessa hosted a **"Senior" Prom for the residents of Buena Vida Nursing and Rehab Center**, Sunday, April 5. The students decorated the dining room with stars and twinkling lights. Everyone dressed up in their finest and danced and danced to music played by a DJ. Students did it all: delivered invitations to the residents; provided food and drinks for the evening; gave each person a wrist corsage or boutonniere.

Go to the church website, www.fumcodessa.org for more pictures of this wonderful outreach by our youth.



Senior Prom special moments (top row, l-r) show Merritt Owens placing a wrist corsage on a Buena Vida resident; Prom King and Queen, and 15-year-old James Lee dancing the night away with 92-year-old Buena Vida resident.



Bottom row of special moments shows Courtney Carlson dancing with the Prom King; a joyful resident watching as Anthony Vickery, James Lee, and Garren Schneider dance through the halls; and, Charlotte Wood dancing with a glowing Prom Queen.

Pictures courtesy of Sally Osborn and Christy Lewis

Golf Clinic Teaches Skills For Life And For Sports



Golf Clinic organizer Jeff Rea was pleased at the end of the first session. More than a hundred students attended the free clinic. Dozens of volunteers elevated the blustery Saturday morning to a time of teaching and sharing, not just how to play golf, but also how to play fairly, honestly, and with integrity in life.

Golfing instructors included the Odessa College golf team and members of the girls and boys golf teams from Odessa High and Permian High. Church members decked out in white T-shirts sporting the new logo helped with the basic organization of the clinic and kept things running smoothly, whether by handing out refreshments or picking up trash. Jeff wants to thank all the volunteers who helped because he believes church members present a Christian attitude toward life that goes hand-in-hand with the golf program. The second free clinic will be held Saturday, April 18, from 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. at Legends Golf on the campus of UTPB. If you want to help, contact Jeff at jeffrea@wtie.net.




They also serve who stand and encourage: top photo, church members Brett Lossin, Hank Jones, Rev. Terry Tamplen, Mark Agnew, Ben McAdams and Arleene Loyd circle up for training. Lower photos (l-r): a Permian High golfer instructs students, while a young girl listens to instructions. Odessa High golf coach Berry Borchardt helps a young man with his golf game.

Photos courtesy of Michelle Rea

Egg-citing Egg Hunt



Palm Sunday's Easter Egg Hunt at Sherwood Park was an egg-stravagant time of games, good food and lots of fun. Dozens of children had as much fun hunting the candy-filled Easter eggs as they had having their picture made with the Easter Bunny. The top left photo captures the joy of a good ol' sack race. The top right photo shows girls tossing eggs. Egg tosses and egg races were enjoyed by church members and neighborhood children. The Children's Ministry hosted the well-planned fun event. More pictures of the fun are at www.fumcodessa.org.



Called Charge
CONFERENCE

April 26
3:30 p.m.

St Luke's United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall

For the purpose of purchasing the alley between our buildings

Memorials

To the Memorial Fund

In memory of:

Robbie Nelle Hamilton
Jackie Hanson

Given by
Ruth & Charlie Strackbein

In memory of:

Carrie Cooper
Robbie Nelle Hamilton

Given by:
Lillian Hood
LuAnn Hood Schmidt

To the Children's Clothes Closet

In memory of

Jean Driskill

Given by

Nancy & Gary Sims

In memory of

John Goode

Given by:

Challengers Class
ECISD GT Program
Teachers

Mary Jane & Gary Malone
Sande & Ben McAdams
Nancy & Gary Sims

In memory of

Bonnie Magnuson

Given by

Robbie & Dan Brazelton

To the Children's Ministry

In memory of

Mackey Houser

Given by

Nancy & Gary Sims

To the Patio Fund

In memory of

Aubrey Barlow

Given by

Minnie & John Goodman

To the Youth Fund

In memory of

Mackey Houser

Given by

Lura & Dick Sivalls

To the Education Fund

In memory of

Robbie Nelle Hamilton

Given by

Gloria & LaDoyce Lambert





415 N. Lee
Odessa, TX 79761

www.fumcodessa.org
Enjoy The Cultivator On-line

**RETURN
SERVICE
REQUESTED**

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 43
ODESSA, TEXAS
79761

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 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 Member



Sylvia and Brad Watts

Sylvia Watts transferred her membership to our church Sunday, March 8. Sylvia says, “Brad and I had been looking for a church home; he likes contemporary services and I like the traditional service, so First meets that need that he and I have. I felt very welcome at First. While it’s a big church, it has a small church feel to it. Everyone has been so nice to come up and introduce themselves to me; and the preaching ain’t bad either :)”

Sylvia works for Midland County in the 142nd District Court. Brad is an employee of Halliburton. The couple has lived in Odessa for four years. She transferred her membership from First United Methodist-Midland.