



First United Methodist  
Church-Odessa  
415 N. Lee  
Odessa, TX 79761

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[www.fumcodessa.org](http://www.fumcodessa.org)  
Enjoy The Cultivator On-line

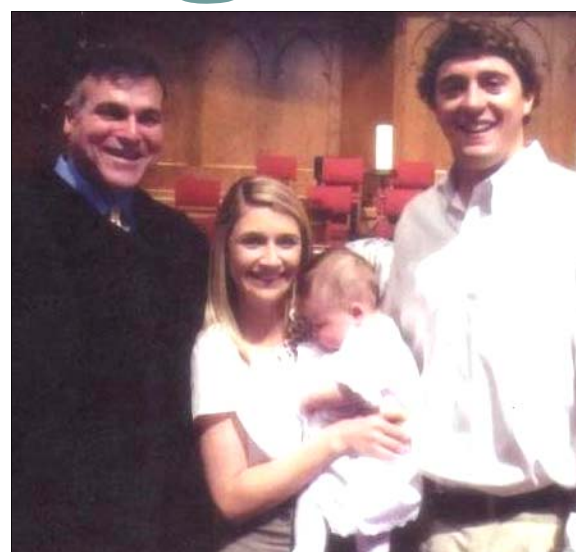


### Join Us This Sunday

- 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.



Proud parents Michael and Lindsey Forrest hold Holly Austin after her baptism on Sunday, March 8. Rev. Donnie Williams presided over this special ceremony. Jo and Mike Forrest are the happy grandparents.

### A SPECIAL INVITATION

You are invited to a  
**Kitchen-Recipe Shower**  
Honoring Virginia Shrader  
Fianceé of Greg Tamplen

**Saturday, April 4**  
**10:30—Noon**  
**4224 Kirkwood,**  
the home of Paula Coulter

Write your favorite recipe on a card  
and share it with the couple.

Gift registry at Bed, Bath & Beyond  
and Dillards.



**First United Methodist-Odessa**  
*Our vision is to be a community that welcomes all people into life-changing relationships with God and others.*  
**CULTIVATOR**  
Cultivating Christ's Presence in Our Congregation  
Volume 7, Issue 7  
April 3, 2009

Activities at First United Methodist Church-Odessa really start to heat up next week in preparation for the celebration of Easter, the holiest of Christian observances. Holy Week opens with worship services this Sunday, *Palm Sunday*, commemorating Jesus' final entry into Jerusalem, and climaxes with the celebration of the Resurrection on Easter morning. Easter services will include the beginning of a new sermon series entitled "Doors," and special music featuring the Lone Star Brass.

In between will be a big *Easter Egg Hunt* in Sherwood Park this Sunday afternoon, a final Lenten luncheon on Wednesday, and two events Thursday and Friday sponsored by the Odessa Ministerial Alliance which give our congregation additional opportunities to celebrate Holy Week.

A highlight of pre-Easter week will be an emotion-filled *Maundy Thursday* service, set for 7 p.m. on April 9 in the sanctuary, led by the Rev. Jeanie Williams. "Sometimes we tend to go straight from Palm Sunday to Easter without remembering the crucifixion," Jeanie said.



She explained that the Thursday night service will include a communion in the spirit of the Last Supper and the story of the Passion, from the arrest to the death of Jesus on the cross. The traditional Tenebrae, or service of darkness, will feature a stripping of the altar, along with the extinguishing of 12 candles symbolizing how the disciples one by one fall away from Jesus—finally leaving him all alone.

The Palm Sunday service will also see the congregation taking communion, as well as the commissioning of 10 **Stephen Ministers** who have completed 50 hours of training preparing them to care for those in and around

Continued, page 3

### Kites + Kids = Springtime Fun



Family fun was blowing in the wind Sunday, March 22 as kids of all ages flew kites at UTPB park. Pictured at left: Cameron Curry runs with his airplane kite. Right top to bottom: Benton Overby and son Quentin keep the US Navy kite high up in the air; Blaine Markle and daughter McKenna have the highest flying kite; and Brian and Hadley Whytlaw fly the mightiest Barbie kite. View more pictures of this fun Children's Ministry event on the web, [www.fumcodessa.org](http://www.fumcodessa.org).

# Church Logo Unveiled

Life is a journey. For a Christian, our journey is one of becoming like Christ in order to make a difference.

The members of the Visibility Team have been on a journey to make a difference for several months...a

journey to create an identity for our church that distinguishes us from other churches in our community.

Thanks to the creative talents of artists at CVA Advertising, the

team has looked at dozens of renderings of a logo for our church. The graphic you see on this page is the logo for First United Methodist-Odesa. We have pondered traditional images, contemporary images, images that none of us could figure out, images that some of us liked, images that others of us liked, images that none of us liked.

As a United Methodist Church, the beloved cross and flame will represent our denomination. The logo for our church declares that we are First United Methodist Church of Odessa and we are on a

life-changing journey with Christ. The official colors are reflections of the United Methodist cross and flame—a bold red and distinctive black. The “T” in the word “First” is a cross. The images below the T/Cross highlight a path to the cross.



You will remember that our consultant Bill Easum gave us four major recommendations for reversing a downward trend in attendance. One of those was to increase our visibility in the community and

get people through our front door via marketing and servant evangelism. The main ingredient for success in each of those venues is specific identity. They must know who we are and that we care for them and that we want them to join us on our Christ-following journey!

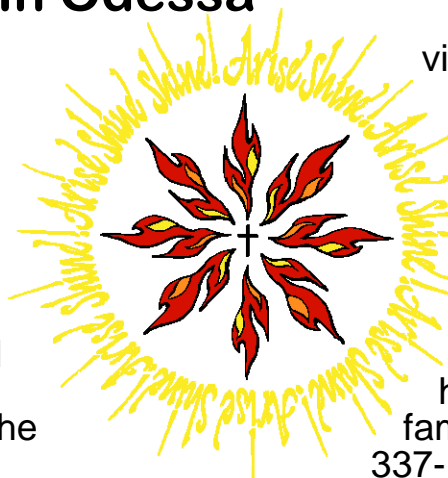
The hard-working members of the Visibility Team are Ken Brumelle, Joy Carthel, LaDoyce Lambert, Jon Smith, Linda Terrell, Christy Lewis, Terry Tamplen, Kris Riley, Donnie Williams and this old journalist, Betsy Triplett-Hurt.

## Let's Show Radical Hospitality To The Annual Conference Here In Odessa

Volunteers Needed....

The New Mexico Annual Conference will be hosted by the United Methodist churches of Odessa, June 3-6, 2009. Business sessions will be at the MCM Grande with worship at Ector Junior High School in the evenings. Many volunteers are needed for the conference.

Ushers, greeters, audio



visual technicians, set up and tear down, hospitality and bus captains are just some of the positions that need to be filled. Coordination of volunteers and training is being overseen by Highland UMC. This is an opportunity to extend hospitality to our conference family. Call the church office at 337-1527 or email

[info@fumcodessa.org](mailto:info@fumcodessa.org) to sign up to help.



Congratulations to Jayme and Scott Wilson on the birth of their daughter, **Natalie Jayd Wilson**, born on March 19. She weighed 8 lbs. & 14 ozs.

Congratulations to Eric and Erika Coco on the birth of their daughter, **Abigail Clara Coco**, born on March 15. She weighed 8 lbs. & 6 ozs. Proud grandparents are Beverley and Russell Kimble.

- April 1  
James Allen  
Chris Withrow
- April 3  
Alyssa Chavira  
John Mason
- April 4  
Kristy Cox
- April 5  
Illeana Cagle  
Chrystal Fouche
- April 6  
Brooke Talley
- April 7  
Patsy Rushing  
Justine Ward
- April 8  
Laura Griffin  
Corey Herron  
Richard Tessaro
- April 9  
Josh Dickerson
- April 10  
John Michael Allbright  
Lynda Fowler  
Eddie Guilbeau
- April 11  
Jane Matthews
- April 12  
Julie Brown  
Ragon Gilbert  
Courtney Pipes
- April 13  
Connie Burseson  
Debbie Douglass  
Nancy Wells
- April 14  
Sally Osborn  
Polly McGuire
- April 15  
Melanie Key  
Russell Kimble  
Keri Lynn Lucas  
Katy Shelton
- April 16  
Connie Borchert  
Sarah Cox
- April 17  
Jason Wood
- April 18  
Alex Wilson
- April 20  
Susie Williams
- April 21  
Frances Durham  
Dorothy Simpson
- April 22  
Julie Flowers  
Haven Halldorson
- April 23  
Macy Drainer
- April 24  
Ashley Stokes
- April 26  
Elise Nichols
- April 27  
Sarah Mazur
- April 28  
Phil Fouche  
Peggy Wallin
- April 29  
Chase Cawthron  
Buzz Hurt
- April 30  
Kaitlyn Riley  
Austin Shelton  
Casey Weatherby

### DID YOU KNOW. .

...that **Kylie Dale Kirkland** was born on November 22, 2008 and weighed 6 lbs. & 10 oz.? Proud parents are Lora and Chad Kirkland, grandparents are Tammy & Tommy Hawkins and great-grandparents are Lady and Buddy Hawkins.



*With Deepest Sympathy*

...to Sue Wagner Rylee in the loss of her husband, **John Rylee**  
...to Sally Allen in the loss of her stepdaughter, **Sylvia Walner**  
...to the family and friends of **Martha Pollard Howard**  
...to Dottie & Paul Chavez in the loss of Paul's stepbrother, **Michael Sanchez**  
...to Karen Stevens and Michelle Rea in the loss of their mother and grandmother, **Wanda Camp**  
...to Jo and Mike Forrest in the loss of Jo's mother, **Bonnie Magnuson**



### Memorial Gifts

To the Food Pantry Fund  
In memory of  
**Lynch King**  
Given by  
Betty & Leslie King

To the Children's Clothes Closet  
In memory of  
**John Goode**  
Given by  
Carol & Doug Hillin

To the Choir Fund  
In memory of  
**Jackie Hanson**  
Given by:  
Becky & John McElroy  
Chas, Marcy, Casey & Kyle Weatherby

To the Youth Fund  
In memory of:  
**Myrtle Brazelton**  
**Dixie Burroughs**  
**John Goode**  
Given by  
Chas, Marcy, Casey & Kyle Weatherby

In memory of  
**John Goode**  
Given by  
Doris & John Mason

To the Memorial Fund  
In memory of  
**Charles Coffin**  
Given by  
Doris & John Mason

To Shared Ministries  
In memory of:  
**Aubrey Barlow**  
**Mary Jo Bostick**  
Given by  
Lynda & Bill Fowler

### Two Baptisms Make A Special Day More Special

Reverend Donnie Williams assists Confirmand Madison Estep as she steps into a pool of water for baptism by immersion on Sunday, March 25.



Taylor Vickery smiles as she prepares to be immersed in water for her baptism. Taylor is the sister to Anthony Vickery who joined the church as a member of the 2009 Confirmation Class. Taylor is a sophomore at Permian High. She is the daughter of Ric Vickery.

### Honoring Your Financial Pledge Made More Convenient

If you want the convenience and ease of automatic bank draft for your pledge to the church, please let Finance Secretary Thelma Reeves know. She will help you set this up. Your account will be drafted for the amount you specify on the date that you specify. All that you need to do is provide to the church a cancelled check. You can contact Thelma by calling 337-1527 or email [Thelma@fumcodessa.org](mailto:Thelma@fumcodessa.org).

### Just Say 'No' To Checks



### Spice O' Life Celebrates St. Patrick's Day



James O'Allen was accompanied by his mom, Sande McAdams.

James Allen and our other Spice O'Lifers got into the St. Patrick's Day spirit at our March luncheon. A special treat, especially for our March birthday lady, Lady Hawkins, was an Irish song from our very special guest, James McAdams, who sang *When Irish Eyes Are Smiling*. James



James McAdams

Director of Outreach Kris Riley shared information about *Servant Evangelism*. She gave us some great ideas for practicing servant evangelism out in the community.



Kris O'Riley

### Holy Week events, continued from page 1

our congregation who are hurting and in need. **The Biggest Easter Egg Hunt in Odessa**, a community outreach event sponsored by FUMC-Odessa's Children's Ministry, is set for 3-6 p.m. this Sunday, April 5, at the Sherwood Park Pavilion. There are many serving positions available including set up crew, clean up crew, cooks, egg hiders, and game helpers. Please contact Cindy Lewis to help with this fun event.



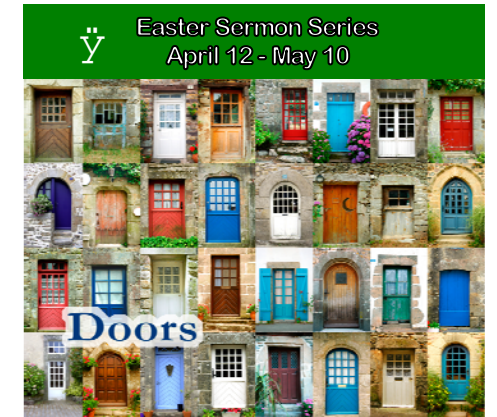
The final in a series of community **Lenten Luncheons** will be held from 11:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Wednesday at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 907 S. Dixie, with the Rev. R.T. McNeil speaking on "Jesus Weeps Over Jerusalem."



On **Easter Sunday**, senior pastor Terry Tamplen begins a new sermon series entitled "Doors." Here is how he summarizes the

series: "When it comes to life, there are doors that we consciously choose to open and close. And these doors can have serious repercussions or abundant rewards, depending on what we do with them. In this series, we will approach the threshold to some of these doors. And as we unlock what it takes to close and open all the right doors, we discover how our finances, relationships, attitudes, and even our very salvation all come down to a single question: What are we going to do with the door?"

—LaDoyce Lambert



The first graduating class of Stephen Ministers will be commissioned during Palm Sunday services on April 5.



"Our graduating class is a fantastic group of servants," said Jody Wallin, Minister of Congregational Care. "They will be

Members of the class are Dr. Anne Acreman, Susan Butler, Rhonda Hackleman, Kyrsten Nall, Cheryl Sellars, Peggy Wallin, Dr. John Mark Weaver, Rev. Jeanie Williams and Jody Wallin.

great Stephen Ministers. It has been such an honor working with them during our 50 hours of training. Jeanie and I feel it is such a privilege to be the Stephen Leaders for these very gifted, talented and sincere, soon-to-be Stephen Ministers."

The Stephen Ministry is a program to train lay people to provide one-on-one Christian care to hurting people in and around a congregation, including the hospitalized, the terminally ill, those who are grieving, the homebound and institutionalized, those with disabilities and those in spiritual crisis.

He added, "We are excited about the many opportunities that are opening to us that will allow us to provide this distinctively Christian care to those in need. The Stephen Ministry Motto is: 'Christ Caring for People through People.'"



The **Odessa Ministerial Alliance** has scheduled two Holy Week events, a Seder Meal on Thursday evening and a walking of the stations of the cross on Friday afternoon.

The **Seder Meal**, an observance of the same Passover meal Jesus and his disciples ate on the night before the crucifixion, will be held at the Church of the Risen Lord at 21<sup>st</sup> and Grandview at 6 p.m. Thursday. Reservations can be made by calling 362-2549. The cost is \$7 for the lamb meal, \$4 for children 5 to 10 years.

"This meal commemorates not only a historical event, when the Angel of Death passed over the Israelite households, but for us as a people of God, a promise fulfilled," officials of the Alliance said.

At 1 p.m. Friday, starting in the Noel Heritage Plaza Park, the Alliance will sponsor a **Good Friday Stations of the Cross** walk. Participants carry a cross down 4th Street to Grant and return on 5th Street. Each station has a reflection, song and prayer.

"Last year over one hundred participated and were blessed by this moving remembrance of what Christ's death to redeem us from our sins means for us, especially as we serve others," the Alliance official said.



—LaDoyce Lambert

# Confirmation Class 2009



**Jace Ahrllett** says Confirmation was important to him because he "learned how to be right with God and how to be fully honest with Him." He really enjoyed going to Camp Eagle and doing the Christ candle. He is the son of Stacie Ahrllett. Jace is pictured here with his mother and prayer partner Terry Tamplen.



**Megan Carlson** says Confirmation was important to her for "worshiping God @ the end of every Tuesday and learning more about God and Jesus." Megan is shown surrounded by her parents, Karin and Jim, sister Courtney and prayer partner Sherry Talley.



**Madison Estep** says that through Confirmation classes she "learned to believe in Christ Jesus and God and have faith." Madison is pictured with her parents, Shonna and Shane, brother Mitchell and prayer partner Julie Flowers.



For **Lauren Elrod**, the retreat at Camp Eagle was the highlight of Confirmation. She says Confirmation was important to her for "learning more about the Bible and Jesus." Lauren is pictured with her parents, Paula and Tom, sister Madison and prayer partner-aunt Tricia Elrod.



For sisters **Emily and Lyndzie Allbright**, Confirmation was a time of growth and learning. Emily says she "learned a lot about Jesus" and really enjoyed all of the friends, the retreat at Camp Eagle, and all of the worship. Lyndzie says she "learned more about God, the Bible, and our church." Emily and Lyndzie Allbright are pictured here with their parents, Pamela and Mark Mounts, brother John Michael, and with their prayer partners. Emily's prayer partner was Lynn Correa and Lyndzie's prayer partner was Vera Baza.



**Raleigh Gregston** says he learned "God loves me all the time, even if I sinned, but I ask for forgiveness first." The highlight of Confirmation classes for him was "getting a closer and healthy relationship with God." Raleigh is the son of Traci Gregston. He is pictured here with his mom, sister Bella and extended family and friends. His prayer partner was Danny Pool.



**Greg Olson** says the Confirmation classes helped him "understand God better." Greg is pictured with his mother, Karen Olson, sister Natalie and prayer partner Danny Sellars.



**Anthony Vickery** was so glad to learn "all about God having a purpose for us. That's a lesson I've tried to live more than just hearing it." Anthony is pictured here with his father Ric Vickery and prayer partner Kris Riley.



**Mason Marshall** says he learned that "God loves everybody, no matter what." He says the Confirmation classes also helped him in "making a closer relationship with God." Mason is the son of Julie Marshall and Mike Marshall. He is pictured with his mom, brother Andrew, sister Kara and other extended family members. His prayer partner was Randy Talley.



**Kameryn Herron** says Confirmation was important to her for "making friends with my group and God." She learned more about God. Kameryn is pictured with her parents, Mike and Cindy Herron, and her prayer partner Tricia Elrod.

**Lauren Lossin** says Confirmation was important to her for "learning more about the Bible and Jesus." Lauren is pictured with her parents, Lisa and Brett, brother Graham and prayer partner Arleene Loyd.



Thirteen young people expressed their commitment to Jesus on Sunday, March 25. The 2009 class of Confirmation included six weeks of extensive study, not only of Methodist beliefs, but a deeper understanding of the Bible, God and Jesus Christ. Reading the comments of the students gives insight into the importance of this traditional rite of passage.

**Allyson Lucas** says that through the Confirmation classes she learned "it's O.K. to open up to people and be myself." Ally is pictured surrounded by her family. She is the daughter of Carole Lucas and Paul Lucas. Also pictured are her sister Keri, brother Patrick and her grandmother. Connie Nichols was Ally's prayer partner.

