

Jr. High Mission Trip: Making A Difference In Presidio



United Methodist Youth In Mission, 2009

On the morning of Sunday, July 12 our junior high youth and sponsors loaded the vans and headed to Presidio, Texas for another amazing year of UMYIM—*United Methodist Youth In Mission*. There were a total of three churches at UMYIM this year: FUMC-Odessa, The Journey from Kyle, and New Covenant of Sunnyvale. A total of 44 people were at UMYIM and 26 were from our church.

The youth and adults were divided among three color group teams. Each color group had their own work site and chores for the day. Some of the everyday chores consisted of preparing breakfast and dinner, cleaning the kitchen area after breakfast and lunch, and cleaning the boys and girls bathrooms.

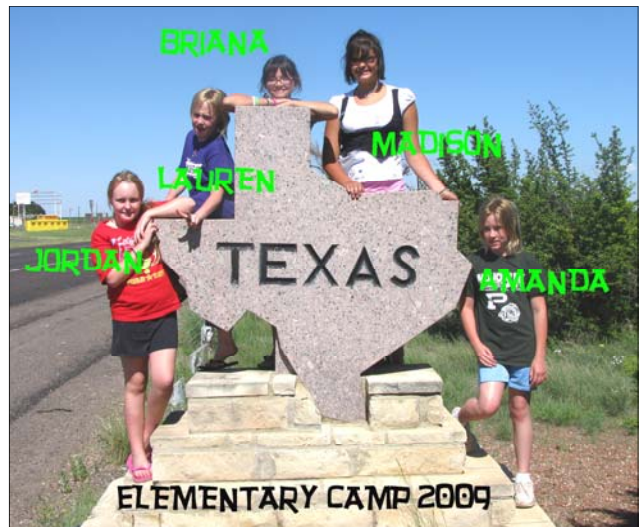
At their work sites, the youth worked on a variety of projects ranging from installing toilets to patching holes, replacing floors, and painting. We had three work sites around town: Francisco's FUM Mission, a trailer, and a home. The youth worked onsite Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

To keep the youth cool and refreshed from those

continued on page 4

Elementary Camp Honors One Of Our Saints With Scholarship In Her Name.

Please turn to page 5 for this sweet story.



Elementary campers pose on their way home from Sacramento, New Mexico.

HOW TO GET OUT OF YOUR “FOG”



Terry Tamplen
Senior Pastor

Norman Harrison in *His In A Life of Prayer* tells how Charles Inglis, while making the voyage to America a number of years ago, learned from the devout and godly captain of an experience which he had had but recently

with George Muller of Bristol. It seems that they had encountered a very dense fog. Because of it the captain had remained on the bridge continuously for twenty-four hours, when Mr. Muller came to him and said, “Captain, I have come to tell you that I must be in Quebec on Saturday afternoon.” When informed that it was impossible, he replied: “Very well. If the ship cannot take me, God will find some other way. I have never broken an engagement for fifty-seven years. Let us go down into the chartroom and pray.”

The captain continues the story thus: “I looked at that man of God and thought to myself, What lunatic asylum could that man have come from. I never heard such a thing as this. ‘Mr. Muller,’ I said, ‘do you know how dense this fog is?’ ‘No,’ he replied, ‘my eye is not on the density of the fog, but on the living God, who controls every circumstance of my life.’ He knelt down and prayed one of those simple prayers, and when he had finished I was going to pray; but he put his hand on my shoulder and told



Charles Inglis
(1734 –1816)
The first Church of England Bishop
in North America

me not to pray. ‘Firstly,’ he said, ‘because you do not believe God will, and secondly, I believe God has, and there is no need whatever for you to pray about it.’ I looked at him, and George Muller said, ‘Captain, I have known my Lord for fifty-seven years, and there has never been a single day that I have failed to get an audience with the King. Get up and open the door, and you will find that the fog has gone.’ I got up and the fog was indeed gone. George Muller was in Quebec Saturday afternoon for his engagement.”

—From *I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes*
by Glenn Clark.

This is one of my favorite stories on prayer. It reminds me that God is greater than the “fog” that conceals my direction and destiny for life. When the fog rolls in, my focus must be on the living God who controls every circumstance of my life!

It’s also true for the church. God has called us to follow Jesus as disciples who make disciples. The journey can get foggy, and we can get lost or detained, if we do not continue to pray for God’s help in fulfilling the mission Jesus gave us.

Christ, we know that apart from you we can do nothing, yet through you we can do all things. Give us grace to lift up our eyes more and more to You, that we may clearly see your will in all matters and have courage to carry it out. Amen.

—Terry



It was a full table for lunch as the New Beginnings Circle of United Methodist Women gathered on July 30. The women honored this photographer, who tries to follow in their many footsteps in stewardship of their years of dedication to this church.

—Betsy Triplett-Hurt



*Holy Baptism
of
Braxton Riley White
child of
Brooks and Courtney White
born on October 20, 2008
baptized on August 2, 2009
surrounded in love
by proud parents
and Pastor Terry Tamplen*

Recycling Made Easier At The Church

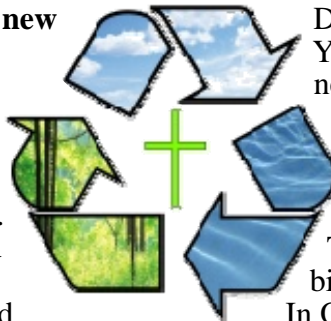
The City of Odessa has placed two new recycling bins (dumpsters) in the alley between the Boathouse and the Noel Heritage Plaza!

These recycling bins are the only ones in the downtown area and were placed here at the request of our church.

One is for NEWSPAPERS ONLY and one is for CARDBOARD.

You will need to flatten your cardboard boxes. You can recycle all kinds of cardboard: corrugated, posterboard, cereal boxes, kleenex boxes, packing boxes of all kinds—just please remember to flatten them. (More fits in the dumpster that way—dumpsters fill up too quickly if we put unflattened boxes in there.)

Inside the sanctuary building, we still collect aluminum cans next to the coke machines, with the proceeds being used for the youth group.



Did you know?

You can always recycle cardboard, newspaper, and all kinds of other paper, glossy magazines, and old phone books, + aluminum and plastic at the Time Machine Recycling center on W. 42 Street.

The Wal-Mart on Parkway has huge new bins for flattened cardboard and plastic.

In Odessa, the only kind of plastic that we can recycle is #1 or #2. You will find the numbers stamped inside a triangle on the bottom of most plastic bottles and containers (we can't recycle the other numbers in Odessa, and mixing enough of those other #s in with the #1s & #2s can actually ruin an entire ton of plastic).

Recycling is being a good steward of the environment. It sets a good example. It leaves less trash in your trash can and less trash in the landfill. And it's good for Mother Earth.

Thanks,
Becki Smith

l-i-f-e-l-i-n-k-s
Membership Class

Sunday, August 23
12—2 p.m.
Fellowship Hall



*Sunday School
Kickoff*

Sunday, August 30

Postcards from Presidio



Working on projects: (l-r) mission trip youth John Browning and Katy Herring; Raleigh Gregston and Brendan Christensen; Megan Carlson and youth sponsor Steve Tacker.

over-100-degree temperatures, other afternoon activities were planned for each workday. On Monday we had a slip and slide/water balloon event, on Tuesday we watched a movie and had ice cream sundaes, on Wednesday we headed to Balmorhea to go swimming and cook out by the natural spring pool, and Thursday was a day for each individual church's youth group to spend with others from their home church.

Every day we partook in morning worship, lunch devotions, and evening worship. Each church had a

day or two to lead worship, and every part of the worship was led by the youth with the additional help of bandleader Brett Talley and drummer Justine Ward. We headed to Alpine, Texas on Friday to relax and bond with the people in our Odessa youth group until we headed home Sunday morning.

As a whole we would like to thank everyone so much for your prayers and financial support. The kids really worked hard every day and made a huge impact on the community of Presidio.

—Chase Gilbert, Youth Summer Intern



FUMC Ninth grader Anthony Vickery gives a talk during evening worship.



Another project: keeping cool in 100-degree weather and having fun.

Elementary Camp Inspires Generations

We recently traveled to Sacramento, New Mexico in many other activities. for a week of fun and learning about God's

amazing love. This year's camp theme was *Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. We used the book/movie as a platform for examining the ways that Christ is present in our lives and the commitment we are all called to make. We looked at how God transforms our lives and how we are called to give every part of our lives – body, mind, and soul to God.

The campers were divided into small groups, which gave them the opportunity to dig deeper into God's word and to share their faith, their questions, and their ideas with each other during their week together. The campers also spent time getting to know each other, playing games, fishing, making crafts, riding the mountain scooters, practicing archery, exploring photography, and participating



(Back l-r) Campers Madison Estep, Lauren Phillips, Briana Hurst, Amanda Phillips, (front) Jordan Groening and Cindy Lewis.

The girls went on a hike together and spent some special time sharing stories. During the hike, the adult leaders prayed for each girl and presented her with a heart necklace.

The boys went on their own hike; they got to cut and sand their very own walking sticks as the adult leaders talked and prayed for them.

We got to spend some time each day with God at the Point of Silence. You could really feel the presence of God, not only through our worship, but in all the beauty of His creation in the mountains that surrounded us. We had a great time together and made lasting friendships along the way. We can't wait for next year!!!

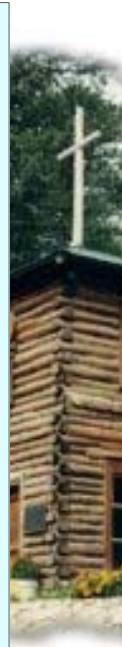
—Cindy Lewis,
Children's Pastor

Longtime First United Methodist Member Robbie Nelle Hamilton is remembered for many acts of loving kindness. The Sacramento Assembly was one of the many activities that she supported. To honor her after her death, the camp this summer awarded a scholarship in her name to one of our elementary campers, Lauren Phillips. Here are the Thank You letters from Lauren and her sister. The letters are to Robbie Nelle's daughter, Lori Nelson.

Thank you for letting us go to camp so I could be closer to God. I made some new friends. This was my first time to a camp. My greatgrandmother used to go to this camp with the church ladies. My Grandmother went to this camp as a girl. Now I have gotten to go. I really loved it. I really like the diggers. That is like a bike and skateboard scooter in one. I would not have had these memories without your help.

God bless.

Amanda Phillips, 11 years old



Dear Lori Nelson,

My name is Lauren Phillips and I am 9 years old.

This summer I went to camp for the 1st time. My great-grandmother went when she was a little girl. I got to go because of you and Robbie Nelle Hamilton.

I love it. It was very nice.

I liked learning more about God.

God bless.

Lauren

LIFE Groups Keep Summer Months Busy...



Heather Kincaid gets ready to make another base hit.



Our co-ed softball team, the Cotton-Headed Ninny Muggins celebrate back-to-back victories on a recent Friday night.



Joan Ruebush is ready to catch a pitch.



Tony Drainer scores another run.

Summer LIFE Groups have been as diverse as our membership, from *Movies with Pastor Terry* to Bible studies to softball teams and sand volleyball workouts.

The fellowship has been fun!

It's Time To Begin Again

If you are interested in leading a study group or creating an activity group, please attend the 3:15 meeting on Sunday, August 30.

LIFE Groups for this semester begin Sept.13.

Contact either Karin Carlson, kcarlson_phed@yahoo.com or Jeanie Williams, jeaniewilliams@fumcodessa.org or 337-1527.

Memorials and Honoraria



To the Food Pantry
In memory of:
Marjorie Butz
Robbie Nelle Hamilton
Shane Lee Graham
Given by
Lura & Dick Sivalls

To the Memorial Fund
In memory of
Don Flowers
Given by:
Christine & Jim Findley
Peggy Gillespie
Norma & Corky Johnson

In memory of
Shane Graham
Given by
Nancy Kirk

In memory of
Robbie Nelle Hamilton
Given by
Cynthia Fouche

To the Choir Fund
In memory of
Robbie Nelle Hamilton
Given by
Dorothy Simpson

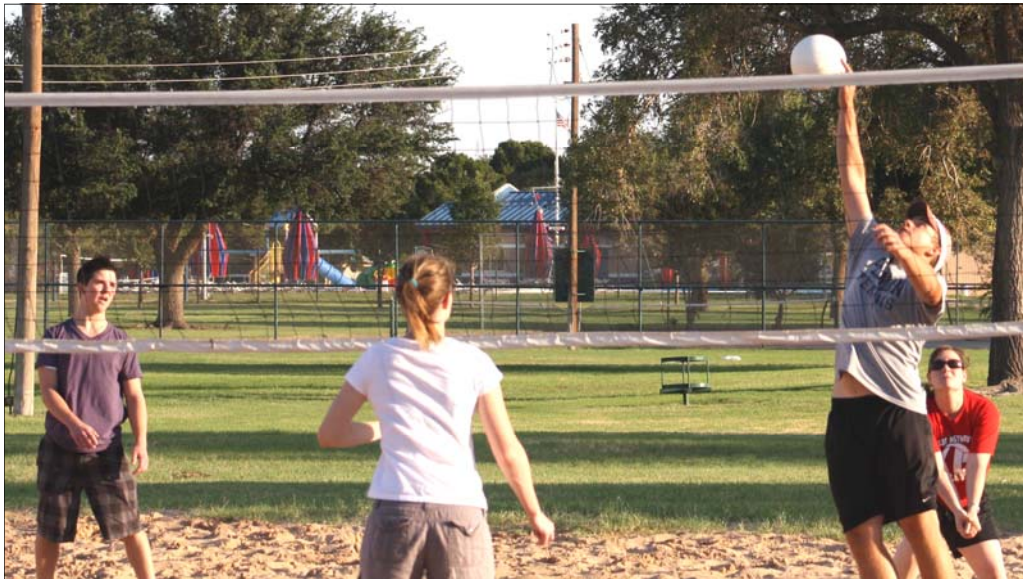
To the Youth Fund
In memory of:
Don Flowers
Karen Stevens
Given by
Judy Morrell

To the Honorarium Fund
In honor of
Evelyn Reynolds
Given by
Nancy Kirk



With Deepest Sympathy

... to Frances Boyd,
Anese, Chuck, David and
Elizabeth Forsyth
for the loss of
Claude Boyd
-husband, father and
grandfather



Sand volleyball players Schuyler Stallcup, Garren Schneider and Jayme Wilson return a ball from Shalon Jordan. (Left) Cheyenne Bueno scores another point for her team. Fellowship and new friends is a goal of LIFE Groups.



Sue Drainer and Rev. Jeanie Williams admire the quilt top from Sue's grandmother. Sue wants to begin a LIFE Group for quilters.



"Show up on Monday nights at 7:00 at Sherwood Park for some fun on the sand volleyball court!"

DID YOU KNOW...

...**Alisha Brown** and Jeremy Hudman were married on June 27? The newlyweds live in Midland. Proud parents are **Jim & Julie Brown**.

...**Mallory Grace Bishop** was born at 30 weeks on July 15? She was 16 1/2 inches long and weighed 3 lbs. Happy parents are **Abby** and **Josh Bishop**. Proud grandparents are **Susie** and **Nick Williams**.

...**Ashlee Thompson** has been promoted to Vice President, commercial lending, at Lone Star State Bank?

United Methodist Women
Invite You To A
Free Authentic Mexican Luncheon

Thursday—August 13, 2009
11:30 a.m. Youth Building

Host & Chef: Rev. Francisco Escalera
Program: Presidio Project

RSVP: Church Office ~ 337-1527
Jean Heggemeier ~ 362-2099
Lura Sivalls ~ 550-2662



Donations for the Presidio Project will gladly be accepted!



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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 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.



This Weekend!!

**Youth Ministry
Reunion**

Saturday, August 8
5:00 p.m.
at C.A.F. Hanger