

Share Joyful Advent Season With Friends

If the thought-provoking sermon series *The Journey* has sparked a deeper yearning to share the Advent season with others, you'll be happy to know that the month of December will provide some great opportunities.

December 11: The sanctuary choir will present its beautiful **Christmas Cantata, *The Word Made Flesh***, at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. (See *Randy Talley's story on page 3.*) Also on that day, bring your Pre-K child, grandchild, or neighbor's child to a **Happy Birthday, Jesus! Party** from noon—2:00. The youth will take on the town for their **Great Christmas Tree Scavenger Hunt** at 5:45 p.m.

December 14: Children's Center Christmas Program. You don't need to have a child enrolled in our wonderful daycare center to enjoy this program at 10:00 a.m. Give yourself an early Christmas gift by watching these precious children perform. Also on that evening at 6:30 p.m., consider our thoughtful **Blue Christmas Service**. (See *Jody Wallin's story on page 3 about this comforting service.*)



Christmas Eve Eve Family Outreach Event

Friday, December 23
7:00 p.m.

December 18: Children's Ministry will bring joy to homebound members with their **Christmas Caroling Party** at 2:00 p.m.

December 23: This year's **Christmas Eve Eve Family Outreach Event** will be a must-see for everyone. All ages are involved in—and will enjoy—the drama, *The Journey*. Plus, puppets will engage children all off ages. Help is needed sewing costumes, greeting in the parking lot, and praying for another wonderful outreach.

December 24: Three **Services of Candlelight and Communion** at 4, 7, and 11 p.m. in the sanctuary.

December 25: One **Combined Worship Service** at 10:00 a.m.

imagine MORE UPDATE



Construction crews continue work on creating the new playground and plaza between the main building and Rodman Fellowship Hall. Renovation of the entrance into Fellowship Hall is also underway. Excitement continues to build as we look forward to utilizing these facilities to grow God's kingdom in 2012 and beyond!

New Campus Launch Team Forming; Meanwhile Construction Continues

Imagine something new! One of the top priorities in FUMC-Odessa's *Imagine More* campaign – a North Campus – is taking shape.

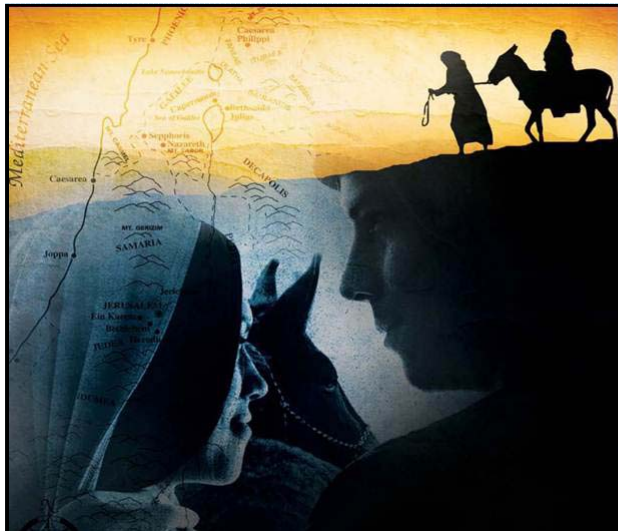
Preliminary planning and preparations are underway to achieve the goal of establishing a ministry in north Odessa, eventually utilizing the gift of land on the northeast corner of Grandview and Yukon.

Associate Pastor Donnie Williams is leading the effort. He said the idea of a North Campus evolved from the need to “rethink church” because of the cultural changes that have taken place over the years. He pointed out that church strategies have had to change from “attraction” to “mission,” explaining that churches can no longer rely on “attracting” people to come to where they happen to be. “To be successful in reaching people for Christ, we have to go to them,” he said.

The North Campus project is starting slowly and will build to a certain level of support before anything major is begun. “Many new church-starts fail because they try to launch too soon,” Donnie said.

Opportunities for LIFE

Passionate Worship on The Journey in December



The Journey

Walking the Road to Bethlehem

Join us on Sundays during Advent and Christmas as we share the journey of a lifetime!

Dec. 11 – 9 & 11 a.m.
Elizabeth in Judea: Encouragement

Dec. 18 – 9 & 11 a.m.
From Nazareth to Bethlehem: Perseverance

Dec. 24 – 4, 7 & 11 p.m.
The Manger: Presence

Dec. 25 – 10 a.m.
The Journey: Come Let Us Adore Him

Candlelight & Communion to Celebrate Christ's Birth



Services of Candlelight and Communion

4 p.m.

7 p.m.

11:00 p.m.

**One 10:00 Worship Service on Dec. 25 & Jan. 1:
No Sunday School**

Come, Let Us Adore Him



*Christmas Day
Worship Service
10:00 a.m.*

*No Sunday
School*



**One Combined Service
10:00 a.m.**

this Christmas Season

Invite Others to these Special Services this Christmas

On Sunday evening, **December 11** at **6:00 p.m.**, the Sanctuary Choir will present *The Word Became Flesh*, a musical celebration of the birth of Christ. The choir will be accompanied by a professional orchestra featuring members of the Midland/Odessa Symphony. This work, written in 2008 by Dan Goeller, features familiar Christmas carols, hymns, and newly-composed choral works. Much like most cantatas, *The Word Became Flesh* features the choir, orchestra, and narrator, but with a different style. The narrator, Dr. Ed Williamson, tells the story while the orchestra continues to play. This constant fabric of orchestration, dialogue, and choir creates a seamless musical presentation that is new and refreshing.



The 30 voice Sanctuary Choir has been hard at work preparing for the cantata. The mission of the choir is to prepare music that is aesthetically pleasing and relevant to worship. Experiencing God through music and words is the desire of every choir member, not only for themselves, but also for each person in the congregation.

We invite you to join us for *The Word Became Flesh* on December 11. Please bring your friends and family members with you so that they, too, can experience the Christmas story in music this holiday season. The concert will begin at 6:00 pm and conclude at 7:00.

—Randy Talley
Director of Traditional Worship

You are invited to attend a **Blue Christmas: Hope for the Holidays** Service on December 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. The service is based on the scripture in Matthew 11:28 which says, “Come to Me, all of you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.” During the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons, there can be sadness, sorrow, pain and grief in our lives that needs to be honored.

This special service will consist of prayer, scripture reading, and lighting of the Advent Candles.



blue Christmas

A night for honoring our losses and embracing God's hope

Wednesday, December 14
6:30 p.m. -- Sanctuary

An opportunity will also be given to hang a Christmas ornament on our “Christmas Tree of Remembrance” in honor or memory of your loved one(s). The service will end with the lighting of memory candles and

prayer at the altar for those wishing to do so.

Join us on December 14 for a time of honoring our losses and embracing God's hope.

—Jody Wallin
Minister of Congregational Care



Christmas Eve Eve Family Outreach Event

Friday, December 23
7:00 p.m.

Invite your family and friends to join us for an evening filled with wonder, excitement, and fun as we journey to the Holy Little City on Christmas Eve, Eve. It will be a wonderful experience for families and children of all ages. The Christmas story will come alive through puppets, music, a special Christmas drama, Holy Communion, and candlelight. It is an evening you won't want to miss. We look forward to seeing you on Dec. 23 in the sanctuary for a very special Christmas service at 7 p.m.

Welcome New Members To Our Church Family



Heather & Scott Kittell
and Kacey (Not pictured -
Rebekah and Jessie)



Carlee, Eddie & Jennifer Bizzell



Travis & Jody Levie
and daughter Bryn



Ashley & Diego Capellini,
(Not pictured - Blaire and Marc)



Max & Andrea Flippin
(Not pictured - Jake and Kyle)



Harold McKelvain
Marsha & Bill Dry



John Anderson &
Phyllis Shedeck



Jason & Heather Wood,
Axtin, Saydigrace, Preslee,
& Jason's niece, Jordan Digby

Spice Of Life

Thanksgiving was the theme of the November *Spice of Life* which was held on Nov. 17. After everyone enjoyed the delicious Thanksgiving feast prepared by Russell Kimble and Sam Howell, Jody Wallin, Minister of Congregational Care, presented a program about the very first Thanksgiving. **We hope you will join us this month on December 15 in the Youth Building** for another fun time of fellowship, a wonderful meal and some Christmas music.

Pictured are November Birthday Girls Wanda Shugart and Katheryn Howell.



Faith Circle Bake Sale
Coming December 18
Save the date for your chance
to purchase delicious
home-baked treats for Christmas!



All proceeds
benefit
Missions.

Needed: Warm Blankets and Coats



Leave blankets or coats
in the Welcome Center or
bring to the church office.

"...for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing... Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." *Matthew 25:35;40*

Continued from Page 1 To get off to a good start, Donnie, Lead Pastor Terry Tamplen and five church members attended a "boot camp" in Dallas in August where they learned strategies for starting new mission fields. Also attending were Barbara Browning, Arleene Lloyd, Gary Sims, Brent Sims and Chase Gilbert.

From this training, the decision was made to hire a coach from the Jim Griffith Coaching Network. This organization focuses on coaching new and existing churches in their efforts to reach the mission field around them.

Since 1996 it has assessed over 1,900 church planting candidates, trained over 9,000 planters, and coached over 1,500 projects. Donnie said he hopes to have the coach on board shortly after the first of the year.

In the meantime, the first step in the planning process is to organize a launch team whose members are committed to the North Campus project and who will agree to reach out to others. Donnie says he has about 20 on the launch team currently, some of whom are church members who attended an organizational

meeting on Nov. 16, and some who are non-church members that he recruited from north Odessa.

He hopes to have 50 on the launch team after another meeting is held in January. The goal is to have 150 to 200 from the mission field before the ministry starts in earnest in the fall of 2012. Donnie emphasizes that team members will be a mixture of persons from FUMC-Odessa and those from outside.

"This is a partnership. We are not trying to take members from our congregation."

Donnie said he hopes to start some occasional worship services this summer in rented or borrowed space somewhere near the North Campus site. "These would be sort of pre-opening events, to get the ministry started," he said.

Donnie said support for the North Campus project has been good, and he hopes it will continue. "The Wesleyan voice needs to be heard throughout our community," he said.

—LaDoyce Lambert



December 1
Ryan Alvarez
Shelby Schlueter

December 2
Ashley Dickerson

December 3
Harriett Berlin
Dottie Chavez
Joe Moss
Kevin Wilson

December 4
Megan Carlson
Peggy Hundley

December 5
Carol Gregg
Jeremy Shaw

December 7
Beto Escalera

December 8
Jean Duke
Adalyn Foster
Daniece Jones
Bruce Lindley

December 9
Hagen Hart
Mary Jane Malone
Marvin Smith IV

December 10
Jaci Brooks
Blaire Capellini
Jeanne Ann Walthall

December 11
Cecil Holcomb
J.T. Morgan
Perry Shelton
Lainey Wimberley

December 12
Mark David Owens

December 13
Doris Mason

December 14
Susan Butler

December 15
Brady Smith

December 16
Adam Allgood
Mike Schlueter
Zachary Scott
Brenda Shaw

December 17
Reba Bates
Jill Najera

December 21
Martha Farris
Courtney White

December 23
Clark Dickson
Catherine Holcomb
Carole Millsap

December 24
Mary Young

December 25
Jeremy Dean

December 26
Ben Lambert
John Patton

December 27
Doris McElmurry
Bella Gregston

December 29
Danny Pool

December 30
Natalie Alvarez
Shane Estep
Anese Forsyth
Amanda Hart
Robert Mann
Tammy Stallcup

December 31
Zachary Lively



Memorial Fund
In memory of
Homer & Emma Moore
Given by Jane Moore
Bynum & Bill Bynum

In memory of
Robert Miller
Given by:
Moselle Ford
Dick & Lura Sivalls

Sanctuary Choir Fund
In memory of
Bob Miller
Given by
Darlene Matthews

Shared Ministries
In memory of
Bob Miller
Given by
Julie Flowers

Children's Clothes Closet
In memory of
Gerry Bearden
Given by
Corinne Costello

In memory of
Dona Ketron
Given by
Dick & Lura Sivalls

Food Pantry
In memory of
Robert Miller
Given by
Dick & Lura Sivalls

Spice of Life
In memory of
Bob Miller
Lucy McAdams
Given by
Jean Heggemeier

Youth Fund
In memory of
Dona Ketron
Given by
Oakey & Becky Hagood

*Deepest Sympathy to
Donnie & Susan Butler
for the loss of Donnie's sister
Gloria Wilson*



Our church will be hosting our last blood drive of this year on Dec. 18 in the Chapel from 9:30 am – 12 noon.

We hope to make this the best blood drive we have ever done!

United Blood Services tells us that each time one unit of blood is given, three lives are saved!

What better Christmas gift could you give than saving the life of someone in desperate need?

Please call the main church office at 337-1527 or go to www.unitedbloodservices.org and use sponsor code W1052 to sign up.

Come and give "your gift of life" on Sunday morning, Dec. 18, from 9:30 am – 12:00 noon in the Chapel.

CHILDREN'S CENTER will be closed Dec. 23, 26, and 30

Holiday Office Hours

In order to give our church staff the gift of time with their families this Christmas, the church offices will be closed December 26, 27, & 30. Offices will be open from 8 a.m.—12 noon on December 28 & 29.



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Bring A Friend This Sunday	
8:00 AM	Adult Bible Class
9:00 AM	Traditional Worship —Sanctuary
10:00 AM	Sunday School, all ages
11:00 AM	Contemporary Worship —Sanctuary

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.



We invite your participation in decorating the Sanctuary for Advent and Christmas with poinsettias.

The cost per poinsettia is \$15.00.

All proceeds go to the Youth Fund.

Name _____

This gift is in honor of _____

This gift is in memory of _____

Enclosed is \$_____ for _____ poinsettias. Please check if you want your plant to go to a shut-in.

Deadline for ordering — December 15, 2011