

Embarking On A Journey Greater Than Ourselves

Details of a \$1.8 million capital stewardship campaign for First United Methodist Church-Odessa were revealed during worship services on Sunday, Jan. 30 with the congregation asked to *Imagine More*.

A successful campaign would provide funds for projects ranging from a daycare center playground and acquisition of property for expanded parking to paying off the sanctuary debt and the beginning of development of a new mission field in North Odessa.

But for Senior Pastor Terry Tamplen, the campaign is less about projects and more about fulfilling the church's vision *to be a community that welcomes all people into life-changing relationships with God and others*. He sees the campaign, which carries the theme of *Imagine More*, as a spiritual journey whose goal is "unifying the church in thought and purpose and making the vision become the reality of who we are as a church."

Following the launch last Sunday, the campaign schedule calls for the congregation to learn about the projects and pray for the endeavor before deciding how to participate on April 3.

Although pledges to the campaign may be made over a three-year period, "First Fruit" or cash contributions will be sought on April 3 so that the first phase can be started immediately.

The first prioritized project contains three components estimated to cost \$375,000. Included in this phase is 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.

Another part of the first phase of the campaign is \$30,000 for the "Imagine No Malaria" global initiative of the United Methodist Church, whose goal is by 2015 to wipe out malaria, a disease which kills a child every 30 seconds, mainly in the poverty-stricken areas of Africa.

The second prioritized project is \$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.

Third on the list is \$500,000 for first steps in development of a new mission field in North Odessa. Property on the northeast corner of Yukon and Grandview near Ratliff Stadium has been made available to the church if a second campus of FUMC-Odessa can be started there in the next few

years. Half of the funds are needed for bringing water lines and other utilities to the site. The other half is for networking the mission field through Leadership and Programming Development. Associate Pastor Donnie Williams has been designated to work with Conference officials in determining how to proceed with plans for a second campus.

Next in line is \$237,500 for an elevator in the main building that would serve all three floors, making the basement more usable and giving greater access to the upper floor; \$80,000 for repairing the deteriorating mortar between the bricks on the outside of the main building; and finally \$250,000 to pay off the remaining debt incurred by the recent renovation of the sanctuary.

Serving as chair of the campaign will be Cindy Fowler, who said she is convinced "we will be absolutely successful in this campaign." Her optimism comes from the positive feedback she has already received. At first reluctant to take the top position, Cindy said the job "has already been a blessing to me." She said she is excited to be part of what may be the first-ever capital campaign at the church. And she said because she has a "wonderful, dedicated team," she feels more like a cheerleader than a chairman.

The campaign teams and their leaders are: Prayer, Marsha Melton and Kay Bramley; Follow-through, Betsy Triplett-Hurt; Epic Events, Sam Howell; Leadership Event, Toby Latham; Invitation, Karin Carlson; Celebration Event, Adam Allgood; Children and Youth, Reagan Whytlaw and Melody Gilbert; and Administrative Support, Sue Wright.

—LaDoyce Lambert

imagine
• MORE

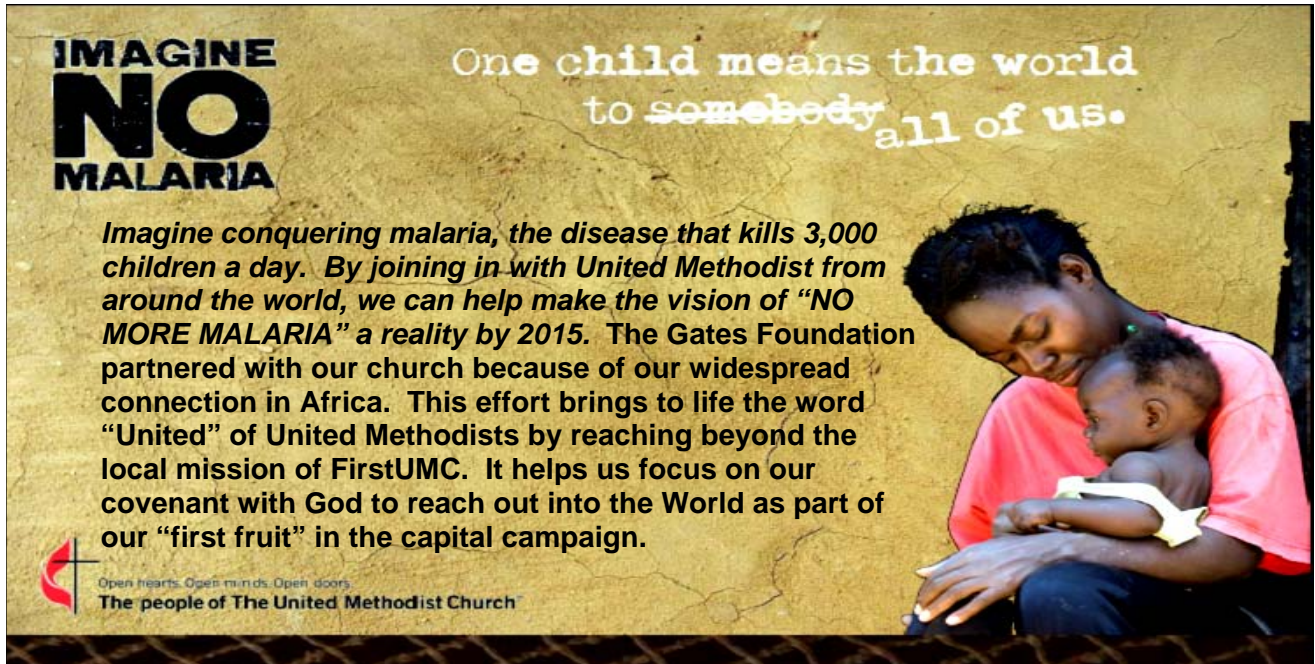
Biblical Baseline of Stewardship

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Ephesians 3:20



PROJECT ONE: A FIRST FRUIT OFFERING

IMAGINE conquering malaria...

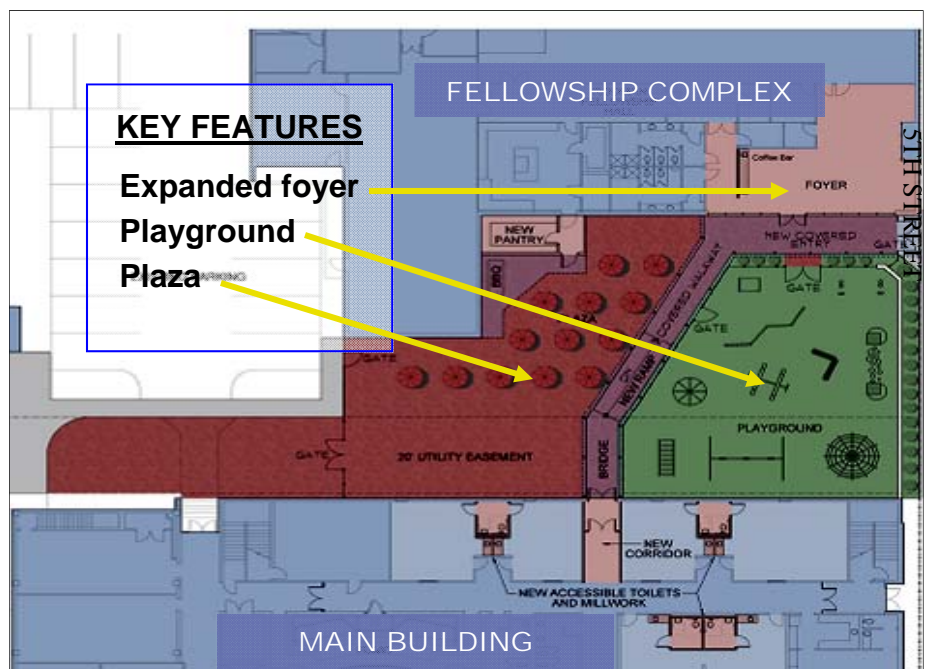


IMAGINE a plaza and playground that physically unites...

IMAGINE a Plaza and Playground connecting the Fellowship Hall and the Main Building to create an inviting and user-friendly church campus.

IMAGINE a welcome area in the Fellowship Hall that allows parents to watch their children play.

IMAGINE church activities, such as BBQ's and parties outside in a sheltered area.



PROJECTS & COSTS

PROJECT TWO:

IMAGINE defining our front entry and increasing our visibility...



IMAGINE closing Lee Street between 4th & 5th Street in front of the sanctuary entry.

IMAGINE removing all of the buildings on the east side of Lee Street to the alley to make the church more visible.

IMAGINE creating a definite entry to our beautiful sanctuary.

IMAGINE making the entire basement safe for everyone to use with a fire suppression system.

PROJECT THREE:

IMAGINE a second campus at Grandview and Yukon....



IMAGINE creating a second campus of our church at the intersection of Grandview and Yukon Road, directly across from Ratliff Stadium.

IMAGINE inviting the 20,000 residents in north Odessa to be a part of our community of disciples, to join our journey in relationship with Jesus Christ.

IMAGINE empowering a new community of believers.



PROJECT FOUR

IMAGINE upgrading and preserving the main building...

IMAGINE an elevator allowing all members—whether in strollers or in wheelchairs—to use all three floors of the main building.



Current Sunday School office on 1st floor is the site for three-floor elevator in main building. Storage rooms on 2nd floor and basement would be converted to the elevator.

IMAGINE preserving our beautiful main building for generations of disciples to come by shoring up its crumbling bricks and mortar.



Gaps between bricks and mortar near alley entrance at bottom of steps is one example.

Summary of Project Costs

Project One: First Fruit Offering

<i>Imagine No Malaria</i> , United Methodist Church worldwide	30,000
Playground, Plaza and Expansion of Fellowship Hall Greeting Area	345,000

Project Two

Fire suppression system for basement of main building	40,000
Acquisition & demolition of Lee Street buildings	300,000

Project Three

Leadership & programming development for networking the mission field surrounding the new north campus property at Grandview & Yukon, across from Ratliff Stadium	250,000
Infrastructure: water lines and electrical at second campus	250,000

Project Four

Elevator to all three floors of main building	237,500
Main building brick mortar repair	80,000
Sanctuary Renovation debt paid off	250,000

Total all projects \$1,782,500

Making Love Last a Lifetime



Singles, newly married, and long-time married all crowd into the chapel to learn how to *Make Love Last A Lifetime*. The popular class is conducted during the Sunday School hour through the end of March.

Men's Wild Game Dinner This Saturday



Ruben Cantu
Guest Speaker

Fortunately for Ruben Cantu, his vocation of being the Region I Director for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department fits perfectly with his avocation of being an advocate of hunting and fishing. "I am extremely

passionate about hunting and want to see it continue as we know it today. This year's guest speaker was born and raised in Corpus Christi, TX and spent most of his growing up years during weekends, summer times, and holidays in south Texas working, playing and hunting on family ranches.

Those who attend this year's **Men's Wild Game Dinner** will enjoy delicious food, outrageous prizes and a great speaker. A graduate of Texas A&I University—Kingsville, earning B.S. and M.S. degrees in Range and Wildlife Science, his master's work revolved around the nesting and brood-rearing ecology of Bobwhite quail and was one of the first studies using radio telemetry on this species. He hired on with the Texas Parks and

Wildlife Department in 1984, now serving as Regional Director which encompasses the Trans-Pecos and Panhandle.

Many church members served in various capacities to make last year's dinner a successful community outreach with approximately 140 in attendance. Jim Carlson and J.T. Morgan are again volunteering as spokesmen for the event by appearing on local radio and television programs. For J.T., this event is a great way to get to know other members better. He says his biggest surprise from last year was the pure number of non-church members who came to join us and how much each seemed to appreciate the evening and the effort expended by the church. Just as the guest speaker is an avid outdoorsman, so too are most of the servants involved in this event. For J.T., the journey of being a Christian and an outdoorsman are a spiritual fit, "I get to spend time with many of my Christian friends outside of the work setting and in the beautiful outdoors! I consider the bounty, both game and the outdoors themselves, to be a gift from God and take very seriously my duties as a steward."

—Betsy Triplett-Hurt

Men's Wild Game Dinner

Saturday Feb. 5
5:30 pm Fellowship Hall

Register online for a rifle, shotgun, dove hunt, knives and more at www.fumcodessa.org

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The Rusty Spur

RAISE THE BAR

SPIRITUAL GROWTH PROCESS

SUNDAYS 10:00 A.M.
Resource Room

Feb. 6
Membership

Feb. 13
Maturity I

Feb. 20
Maturity II

Feb. 27
Ministry

March 6
Mission

Webelos Scout Patrick Lucas Works For Merit Badge By Feeding Homeless



Samaritans By Grace Nick Williams and Debbie Douglas show Patrick how to fill the sack lunches.

On cold and blustery Sunday, Jan. 23, Patrick Lucas helped the regulars of Samaritans By Grace prepare and distribute sack lunches to the homeless in Noel Plaza. Patrick is a Webelos Scout working on his God & Family merit badge. The 10-year-old has been counseled by Rev. Donnie Williams about the importance of placing God first in all relationships. He and Donnie have spent 7 hours working together. Patrick wanted to give back to his community and chose to help feed the homeless as a means to do so. Proud parents are Carole Lucas and Paul Lucas.



Patrick serves bottled water and kindness.

Bowling For Fun And Fellowship; Building Faith And Friendships



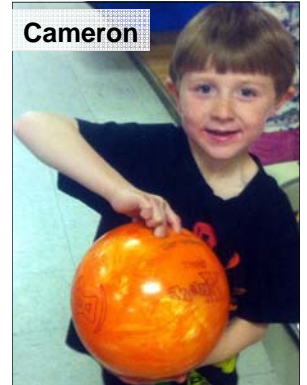
Bella and her mom, Traci Gregston



Aliya & Macy



Sarah and Jolie



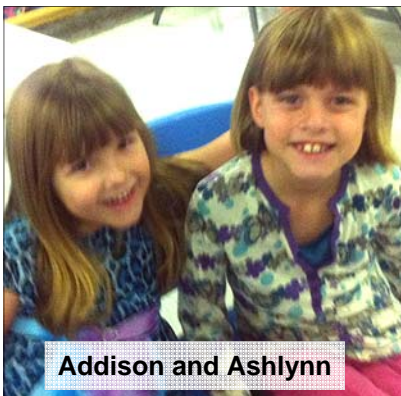
Cameron

On Sunday, January 17, 2011 we all got together at Diamond Bowling Lanes for some great fun. The bowling pins were flying as the kids continued to send ball after ball down the lane. We enjoyed our time as we continue to build friendships, invite others, and learn

more about God's Amazing Love. *The Zone* meets each week in the Bible Zone Theater from 5-7 p.m. Come join the fun for all kindergarten through sixth graders.

—Cindy Lewis
Director of Children's Ministry

Photos courtesy of Janice Wilson via her cell phone



Addison and Ashlynn



Chase, Mason, and Mark



Alex, Jayden, Jaden, and Michael



February 11
Mildred Bridwell

February 12
Kendra Martinez
Wilma Tune

February 1
Vera Baza
Robert Flaherty

February 2
Mariel McLemore
Howard Millsap
Tom Rodman

February 3
Vicky Tessaro

February 4
Brock Bizzell
Ashlee Thompson

February 5
Steve Storm

February 7
Letha Allen
Grant Lehr
Emily Osborn

February 8
Mary Sue Carey

February 9
Jack Lambert

February 10
Matt Furst

February 13
Sherry Buck
Janet Cabra
Alice Learned

Greg Terrell

February 15
Jaden Chavez

February 16
Brylee Latham

February 17
Karen Burroughs
Hank Jones
Mary Karr
Courtney Phillips
Taylor Vickery

February 18
Wesley Coursey
Ross Doran
Mason Vincent
Sylvia Watts

February 19
Dee Melton

February 20
Caroline Howard

February 22
Gary Leathers
Bob Miller

February 23
Anne Acreman
Kari Halldorson
Ali Morgan
Meg Morgan
David Najera

February 24
Barbara Graff
Jami Taliaferro

February 25
Julie Drainer
Alexis Galaviz
Beau Wright

February 26
Allie Allgood
Leslie King
Ruth Ann
McQuitty

February 27
H.C. Banfill
Lucile Bellican
Sallie Gage
Dorothy Gibson
Richy Puga
Dustin Taliaferro

February 28
Amber Carpenter
Logan Cox
Valerie Minyen
Greg Olson



Sally Allen

Children's Clothes Closet
In memory of
Nita Clayton
Given by
Robbie & Dan Brazelton

Memorial Fund
In memory of
Bill Heggemeier
Given by:
Sue & Buddy McDonald
F.J. Moore

In memory of
Grace Miller
Given by:
Doris & John Mason
Kay & Doug Whitefield

Shared Ministries
In memory of:
Don Farris
Bill Heggemeier
Given by
Letha Allen

In memory of
Grace Miller
Given by

In memory of
Bill Heggemeier
Given by:
Robbie & Dan Brazelton
Mrs. R. A. Coleman
Mary Lu Shaw
Wesley Couples Class
Food Pantry
In memory of:
Louis Davison
Bill Heggemeier
Given by
Boosters Class

Youth Fund
In memory of
Woodrow Leach
Given by
Charles & Harriett Berlin

Spice of Life Fund
In memory of



Sympathy to...

...Robert and Shanna Flaherty in the loss of Robert's grandmother,
Opal Durham

...Louisa House in the loss of her brother, **Louis Davison**

...Lynda & Bill Fowler in the loss of Lynda's mother, **Nita Clayton**

...Mary Hanson, Tim, Lyndi and Ella in the loss of Mary's father,
Raymon Edward "Ray" Laird, Jr.

...Morgan Stokes in the loss of her grandfather, **Dub Stokes**

...family and friends of **Verna Lowrey Elliot**

...Jennifer and James Mosman and Jocelyn in the loss of Jennifer's
father, **Bill Stein**



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- 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 Member



Mary Elaine Williamson joined by transfer of membership from another UMC on Sunday, Jan. 30. Mary Elaine, a teacher, and her husband, retired pastor Dr. Ed Williamson, have served in United Methodist churches for many years. They have already found a place of service here as members of the sanctuary choir.

A Special Thanks



Dear 1st United Methodist Church Foster Angels,
The Ector Count Children's Services Board extends a heartfelt 'thank you' for your contributions and efforts in providing a meaningful and joyous Christmas to the children of Ector County.
Sincerely,
Glena Tharp Freddie Gardner
Bard Miller Kathy Cunige
Len Redmono Maria Ramirez
Charlie Kirkpatrick Eloisa Corbell
LaVon Darville Mark D. Rowden

Spice Of Life



Mozelle Lowe holds the beautiful January birthday cake at Spice of Life. Lots of delicious creations were the focus of attention as baker-extraordinaire Johnnie Williams talked about the International Cake Show.