

100% PAID, Again

"It was nothing short of a miracle!"

That's how pastor Terry Tamplen described FUMC -Odessa's financial result for the year 2010.

When Finance Manager Mary Blain paid the last bill just after the start of the new year, the miracle was complete: *Not only had the church ended the year clearly in the black, but it had been able to pay 100 percent of its shared ministries allocation to the Conference for the eighth year in a row.*

What made this accomplishment so impressive was the fact that in addition to funding the regular budget for 2010, the finance committee learned early on that another \$45,000 would have to be paid because of an accounting error which occurred the previous year.

When budget deficits happen, the first thing to be put on the back shelf is the church's shared ministries, the apportionment each local church is asked to pay to support the international, national and regional missions of the United Methodist Church.

In early fall of 2010, the church had paid only 30 percent of its shared ministries allocation, at a time when 50 or 60 percent should have been paid. Pastor Terry decided it was time for action. He sent out a letter to the congregation asking for gifts above their normal giving level, and explaining that the church started out in an unexpected financial hole.

He got a broad response, including one elderly member who conducted a garage sale and dedicated

proceeds to the cause. By December, the shared ministries payment was in the 70 percent range, but there was still a long way to go. Thanks to strong year-end contributions the goal was achieved.

Terry said he was proud of the congregation for stepping up to meet this financial challenge. By supporting the shared ministries program, "it shows our members realize that the picture is bigger than just us here in Odessa, and that they support our mission statement of making a difference not only at home but across the world."

He added that few churches in the conference could boast of paying all of their shared ministries portion for eight straight years, "especially at this level (\$125,000)."

Finance Committee Chair Lynda Fowler agreed that by paying 100 percent of our shared ministries we at FUMC-Odessa are stepping up as a connected United Methodist Church to support worldwide missions in ways we could not do alone.

"We can look at the wonderful amount of mission and ministry we do in our own community and realize it does not stop there," she said. "FUMC-Odessa generously shares God's gifts, and we set a tremendous example for the other New Mexico Conference churches. We have been blessed to be a blessing," she added.

Lynda also gave credit to the church staff for helping the church end the year in the black. "They did a great job holding the line on expenses," she said.

—LaDoyce Lambert

Following the lead of his sister who attends Zia-UMC in Santa Fe, NM, Gary Malone and the Cornerstone Class have created "Love Packs" to give to homeless people. Each Love Pack is a large Ziplock bag stocked with a bottle of water with our FUMC logo, snack pack sizes of fruit, tuna, Vienna sausages, peanut butter crackers, trail mix, saniwipes, plastic utensils, etc.

According to Mary Jane Malone, class members keep the Love Packs in their cars "to distribute some basic food items to the homeless whenever we happen to see them as we drive around the city." The long-range goal of the class is to have Love Packs in the Welcome Centers at both worship services for any church member or guest to take to help distribute as they drive around Odessa.

Spreading Love, One Pack At A Time



Lori & David Nelson, Mary Jane Malone, Sue Wright, and Julie Flowers hold 'Love Packs' created by the Cornerstone Class to give to homeless people.

Intentional Faith Development

Intentional Faith Development

Our membership classes called "Raise the Bar," begin on Sunday, February 6. The classes will run for 5 consecutive weeks during the 10:00 a.m. Sunday School hour. We hope that this will make it more convenient for you to take the whole series or finish the classes that you haven't been able to attend yet. "Raise the Bar" classes cover Church Membership; Christian Maturity; Ministry; and Mission. Please be watching the newsletter, bulletins and announcements for more information or call Jody Wallin at 337-1527. Let's raise our commitment and involvement to a higher level in 2011!!

Feb. 6
Membership

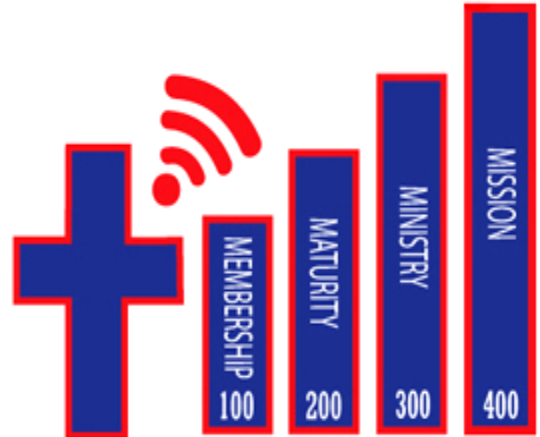
Feb. 13
Maturity I

Feb. 20
Maturity II

Feb. 27
Ministry

March 6
Mission

RAISE THE BAR
SPIRITUAL GROWTH PROCESS



Classes are scheduled: Membership, Feb. 6; Maturity I, Feb. 13; Maturity II, Feb. 20; Ministry, Feb. 27; Mission, March 6.

If you would like to participate in this Life Group or attend any one of the classes, please contact Jody Wallin at 337-1527 or jody@fumcodessa.org.

LIFE Group Sign-ups



jody@fumcodessa.org

If you are not currently in a LIFE Group and would like to join one, or if you are interested in forming a new LIFE Group, please contact Jody Wallin at 337-1527, jody@fumcodessa.org or Karin Carlson at kcarlson_phed@yahoo.com.

Winter 2011 LIFE Groups

Group # & Name	Meeting Day/Time	Type of Group	Location	Topic or Interest	
1 Nelson/Malone	1,3,5 th Sat. of month @ 5 pm	Open	Church Library	Grace – Invitation, A way of life	<p>Interested in leading or being in a small group based on an interest or topic? (Bicycling, golf, eating out, scrapbooking, quilting, etc.)</p> <p>Contact Jody Wallin, or call the Church Office with your request/idea, 337-1527</p> <p>Interested in one of our new "I Am Second" groups? Call Christy Lewis or Jody Wallin at 337-1527.</p>
2 Still Magnolias	Sundays @ 6 pm	Women	Home rotation	TBA	
3 J.O.Y. Group	Mondays @ 9:30 am	Women	Lone Star State Bank	Serendipity Bible Study	
4 Brown Bag	Mondays @ 12 noon Bring your own lunch	Open	Boosters Room @ First UMC	Romans	
5 Wallin Small Group	Sundays @ 6 pm	Open	1715 Grayson Ave.	Small Group Studies	
6 Carlson Group	Mondays @ 7 pm	Open	Home rotation	TBA	
7 Sunflowers	1&3, Tuesdays @ 2 pm	Mature Women	Home rotation	Bible Study - Acts	
8 Arlene Loyd Group	Meetings As Determined	Open	2104 Custer Ave	TBA	
9 Nancy Sims Small Group	Wednesdays @ 5pm	Women	Boosters Class	Beth Moore/Daniel	
10 Sue Wright Group	Wednesday @ 7 pm	Women	Boosters Class	Wesley Bible Study	
11 Susie Schaubert Group	1 & 3 Wed.'s, 12-2	Women	103 Emerald Forest	TBA	
12 "I Am Second" Whytlaws	TBA	Young adult couples	TBA	<i>I Am Second</i> Curriculum	
13 "I Am Second" Allgoods	TBA	Young adult couples	TBA	<i>I Am Second</i> Curriculum	
14 "I Am Second" 40s & up	TBA	Mixed 40s & Up	TBA	<i>I Am Second</i> Curriculum	
15 Sherry Snodgrass group	TBA	Mixed	TBA	Various Studies	
16 Making Love Last a Lifetime	Sundays @10 am	Mixed	Chapel	Marriage	

Making Love Last a Lifetime

A New Sunday School Hour Study for Singles and Married

Why are men and women so different? What is God's plan for sexual intimacy?

These questions and more will be explored beginning Sunday, January 16. The church is beginning an eight-week study called "Making Love Last a Lifetime: Biblical Perspectives on Love, Marriage, and Sex."

The study is based on a video series of the same name featuring the Reverend Adam Hamilton, founding pastor of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas. **It will be held in the FUMC Chapel at 10:00 each Sunday.** This special Bible study and discussion will be led by Pastor K.C. Blacketter, former United Methodist Pastor, who is now a Licensed Professional Counselor with offices in Odessa and Midland. Come and explore topics rarely discussed in church, such as



Rev. K.C. Blacketter

“What Women Wish Men Knew About Women,” “What Men Wish Women Knew About Men,” and “After the Honeymoon Is Over.” The study is intended for singles as well as for married couples. With fifty percent of marriages ending in divorce, we feel this study is an important ministry to our congregation at this time. As part of the event, we will be making an extra effort to invite members of the surrounding community to participate. Since the topic is of such great interest, we will be making a special effort to invite the community to join us. This Sunday School hour opportunity represents a new study group formed to welcome our guests, and we're asking members of the congregation to invite neighbors and friends.

For more information on this special event and how you can participate, please contact Jody Wallin, Minister of Congregational Care and Education at 337-1527 or jody@fumcodessa.org.

I Am Second is a movement meant to inspire people of all kinds to live for God and for others. Actors. Athletes. Musicians. Business leaders.



What is I Am Second?

Drug addicts. Your next-door neighbor. People like you.

The authentic stories on iamsecond.com provide insight into dealing with typical struggles of everyday living. These are stories that give hope to the lonely and the hurting, help from destructive lifestyles, and inspiration to the unfulfilled. You'll discover people who've tried to go it alone and have failed. Find the hope, peace, and fulfillment they found. Be Second.

Contact Christy Lewis for more information at 337-1527 or christylewis@fumcodessa.org.

2nd Annual Men's Wild Game Dinner

Men of all ages are welcome to come!

February 5 @ 5:30 p.m

First United Methodist Church - Fellowship Hall

415 N. Lee (Downtown Odessa - Corner of 5th & Lee)

Register Online or call the Church office by January 29.

to be entered in the drawings.

sharinglifeodessa.com ~ 432.337.1527

Prizes include

- * A rifle,
 - * A shotgun,
 - * A dove hunt,
 - * Several Knives
- & much more.



A Night In Bethlehem



A Service of Hope & Healing



Wreath makers Vera Baza and Reagan Latimer.



Bakers Debbie Heard and Sue Blair prepare bread for the hungry travelers.



Greeting travelers to Bethlehem are Karin Carlson and Kris Riley.



A Joyful Christmas

Preparing for meet visitors to Bethlehem, Arleene Loyd adjusts the veil for Doris Ann White.



Roman centurions keep order during the census taking on this Night in Bethlehem.

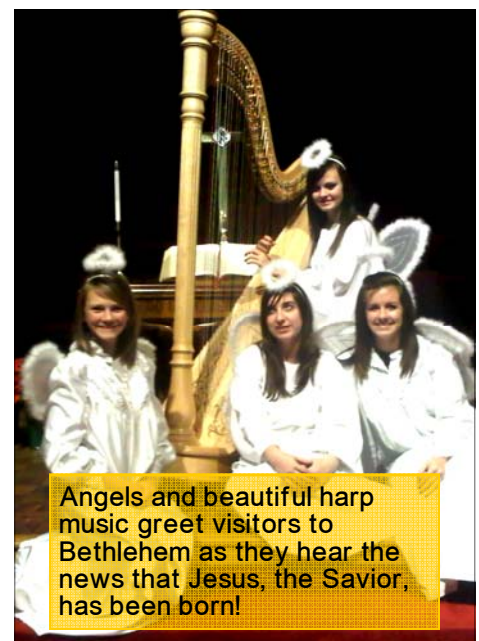


Tricia Elrod and Ruth Strackbein offer a welcoming smile to guests.



Dozens and dozens of church members hosted hundreds of travelers to Bethlehem on Dec. 19 for the family-oriented Christmas outreach event, **A Night In Bethlehem**. Children's Ministry Director Cindy Lewis was very pleased with the overwhelming volunteer response and opportunity to share the story of Christ's birth with our FUMC families and with the community of Odessa.

Angels and beautiful harp music greet visitors to Bethlehem as they hear the news that Jesus, the Savior, has been born!



Roman soldiers Mike Schlueter and Randy Talley stop to check on the activities of the local Tax Collector, Kent Stallcup.



Bethlehem residents Julie Drainer and Tandy Curry offer hospitality to weary travelers.



Foster Angels ✨ Fellowship For Seniors ✨ Feeding The Homeless




Foster Angels Debbie Heard, Betsy Triplett-Hurt, Eric Heard, Marsha Melton, and Melody Gilbert deliver gifts for 50 children in foster care. The gifts were provided by generous church members who shopped for the kids.



Cook Sam Howell serves prime rib to Spice of Life members for their December fellowship.

The first-ever service of **Hope and Healing** on Dec. 15 provided comfort and peace for the dozens of participants. A "Tree of Remembrance" was adorned with ornaments placed in honor of loved ones. If anyone would like to have their ornament back, please contact Jody Wallin at 337-1527. At right Rev. David Weyant is pictured as he reads one of the passages in the service of Hope and Healing. The readings related to each of the candles of the Advent Wreath.




Samaritans By Grace Buzz Hurt, Nick Williams and Adam Allgood served a cup of hot black-eyed peas to these hungry men in Noel Plaza on Jan. 2, 2011. Youth member Schuyler Stallcup cooked a hot breakfast for homeless people on Christmas Day and served them in our fellowship hall.

Radical Hospitality

Thank You!

The family of Rev. Bill Heggemeier wants to thank the church and everyone for their love, compassion and support during this difficult time.

We especially thank the pallbearers Phil Fouche, Nick Williams, Clyde Shugart, Glen Larum, Buddy McDonald, and Phil Szenasi.

May God's blessings be with you all.

Sincerely,

Jean, Terry and Ron Heggemeier



Happy Birthday, Dear Joe

Family members of Joe Moss surround him as they celebrate 80 years of joyful living on Sunday, December 19, 2010. Hundreds gathered in the church parlor to join the fun and to greet Joe. Joe and his wife Marlene are long-time front door greeters for the traditional worship service.

SHAPE UP FOR THE NEW YEAR

Announcing a 100% FREE online fitness program for First United Methodist Church members!

As a WCA member church, we are eligible to use the new **100% FREE online fitness program** developed by MinistryHome, Inc. Eimer Group International holds exclusive marketing rights for this amazing on-line fitness site that combines the ease of on-line with the benefit of a nationally known trainer.

Personal training is by far the best way to get (or stay) in shape. And now, in the privacy of your own home, you are able to receive all of the benefits that come from personal training. And the best part – the training fits your schedule – 24/7. Three new 55-minute training sessions from one of the nation's premier trainers are uploaded each week.



Our church is already signed up for this powerful (and free-to-churches) service!

Just go to <http://www.eimergroup.com/fitness/login/>.

Then log-in with: username – **fumcodessa**

password – **exercise**



Children's Center Christmas Program



January 1
 Sydney Laing
 Buddy McDonald
 Echaswv Stanley

January 2
 John Weaver

January 3
 Debra Meador

January 4
 Michaella Hansen
 Amanda Stallcup
 Noah Wilson
 Heather Wood

January 5
 Gavin Thompson
January 6

Jim Findley
 Mason Marshall
 Shelly Weaver

January 7
 Tanda Curry
 Sherry Talley

January 9
 Fred Girard
 Carl Jones
 Marsha Melton

January 10
 Mozelle Lowe
 Isabella Wood

January 11
 Mary Howell
 Tommy Trainor

January 12
 Bob Bailey

January 13
 Jennifer Robinson

January 14
 Abby Bishop
 Julie Garrett
 Garrett Morgan
 Tracy West

January 15
 Aaron Cox
 David White

January 17
 Justin Fanning
 Maria Serna

January 18
 Charles Berlin
 Don Blair
 Lance Brooks
 Carole Lucas
 Jason May

January 19
 Courtney Carlson
 Jean Gillen

Marcy Weatherby
January 20
 Teresa Owens
 Steve Riley

January 21
 Chris Garrett
 Jessie Scott
 Karen Ward

January 22
 Glenn Smith

January 24
 Judy Withrow

January 25
 Ramesh Christian
 Tammy Hawkins
 Kelsea Parker
 Maxine Smith
 Linda Terrell
January 26
 Alison Blount
 Chase Gilbert
 Christine Storm

January 27
 Jennifer Collins
 Lynn Correa
 Marie Robertson

January 28
 Parker Freeman
 Christopher Yancey

January 29
 Kelly Allgood

January 30
 Phillip Collins
 Lauren Elrod
 Christi Hansen

January 31
 Nolin Fanning

Memorials

Spice of Life Fund

In memory of
Bill Heggemeier
 Given by
 Lucy McAdams

Memorial Fund

In memory of
Frank Bowers
 Given by
 Lee Ann & Wayne Johnson

In memory of
Wilford & Peggy Elmore
 Given by

Katy & Doug Shelton
 In memory of
Don Farris

Given by
 John & Annette Casey

In memory of
Bill Heggemeier

Given by:
 Walyn & Dorothy Gibson
 Lucilee Inabinet
 Hazel Suggs
 Hugh & Johnnie Williams
 Nick & Susie Williams
 Mr. & Mrs. Clay Wood

In memory of
Dr. Woodrow Leach
 Given by:

Robert L. Chappell Jr, M.D.

Lura & Dick Sivalls
Shared Ministries

In memory of:

James Allen
Gary Calloway
Len Edgar
Randy Whitaker
 Given by
 Julie Flowers

In memory of
Bill Heggemeier

Given by:
 Martha Farris
 Ruth Searls
 Sunflowers Bible Study

Children's Clothes Closet

In memory of
Lillian Gray
 Given by
 Fidelis Sunday School Class

In memory of
Estee & Marvin Smith
 Given by
 Margie Dumas & Family

Youth Fund

In memory of
Bill Heggemeier
 Given by



Heartfelt Sympathy to...

...Jeff, Michelle and Denton Rea for the loss of Michelle's
 uncle, **Billy Camp**

...Jody & Peggy Wallin for the loss of their nephew, **Brian Lair**

...Jean Heggemeier for the loss of her husband,
Rev. Bill Heggemeier

...Kent, Tammy, Holly, Amanda & Schuyler Stallcup for the
 loss of Kent's father, **Frank Stallcup**



*Congratulations to Crystal & Micah Foster on the
 birth of their daughter, Adalyn Lee Foster.
 Adalyn was born on December 8 and weighed
 6 lbs. 13 oz. Proud big brother is Jaxon and proud
 grandparents are Jonnie & Larry Hackleman.*



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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.

Holy Baptism



Peyton Gage Overby, pictured with (L-R) Rev. Donnie Williams, mother and father, Amanda and Benton, and brother Quentin, was baptized on Sunday, Dec 26.



Lexie Kate Allgood is held by her father, Adam, and her sister Allie is held by mother Kelly. Lexie was baptized Jan. 2, 2011.