



First United Methodist-Odesa

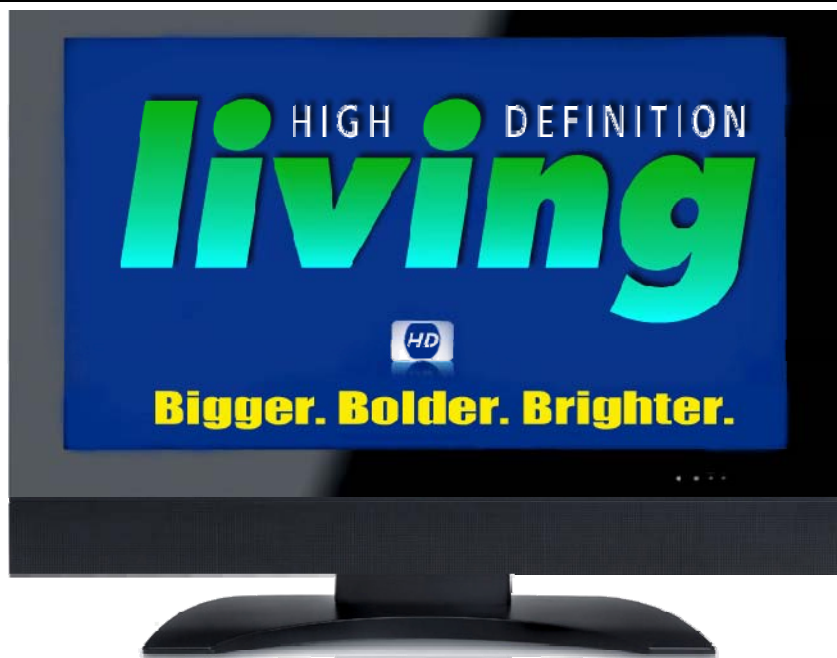
Our vision is to be a community that welcomes all people into life-changing relationships with God and others.

CULTIVATOR

Cultivating Christ's Presence in Our Congregation

Volume 7, Issue 2

January 23, 2009



January 25 - High Definition Finances

"Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life."
- 1 Timothy 6:17

February 1- High Definition Service

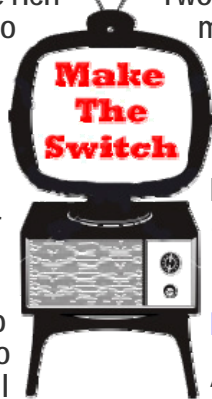
"Do you want to stand out? Then step down. Be a servant."
- Matthew 23:11

February 8 - High Definition Relationships

"Two people can accomplish more than twice as much as one; they get a better return for their labor. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But people who are alone when they fall are in real trouble." - Ecc. 4:9-10

February 15 - High Definition Dreams

"God, by His mighty power at work within us, is able to do far more than we would ever dare to ask or even dream of— infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, or hopes."
- Eph. 3:20



Invite your neighbor to the 9:00 traditional service or the 11:00 contemporary service.



FUMC Fellowship Hall 10:30-2:30



Dick Towner

Dick Towner is the Willow Creek Association's executive director for the Good Sense Stewardship Movement. He is also the primary author of the WCA's Good Sense curriculum. Dick serves on the board of Christian Stewardship Association and on the President's Council of Christian Management Association.



Susan McCarthy

Dr. Susan McCarthy is an author, speaker and financial advisor. With over 24 years of experience, and recently named by Barron's as one of the "Top 100 Women Financial Advisors" in the United States, she knows that the world of money is a world of emotion. The lessons money has to teach us go well beyond the financial. They reach deep into our emotional and even our spiritual lives.



Matt Bell

Matt Bell is an award-winning personal finance writer and speaker. He has been quoted in U.S. News and World Report, the Chicago Tribune, and Kiplinger's Personal Finance magazine; has written for ChristianityToday.com; writes two popular enewsletters; and has been a guest on several nationally syndicated radio talk shows. His first book, *Money, Purpose, Joy*, was published in September 2008.

Manage Your Money and release the fear of financial burdens and gain the knowledge and motivation necessary to find peace, joy, and freedom with your finances.

It's time to put your money where your heart is and start living!

\$10 registration fee includes box lunch
Register at www.fumcodessa.org or call 337-1527
Childcare available by reservation

LET'S BE THE CHURCH WITH AN ATTITUDE!



Terry Tamplen

That's my vision for 2009.
That in the city of Odessa,
FUMC is known as
the church with an
"ATTITUDE!"

What kind of attitude? **"Radical Hospitality"**

What is radical hospitality?

"Vibrant, fruitful, growing congregations practice Radical Hospitality. Out of genuine love for Christ and others, their laity and pastors take the initiative to invite, welcome, include, and support newcomers and help them grow in faith as they become part of the Body of Christ. Their members focus on those outside their congregation with as much passion as they attend to the nurture and growth of those who already belong to the family of faith, and they apply their utmost creativity, energy, and effectiveness to the task, exceeding all expectations."

– Bishop Robert Schnase,
"Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations"

Isn't that the job of the ushers, greeters, and welcome center attendants?

While there have been 30 people trained to serve as specialist on our First Impressions Team, it is imperative that this attitude of radical hospitality is practiced by everyone at FUMC. Here is a tool we all can use to help us establish the reputation as the church with an attitude. When you see someone new to you on Sunday morning, say **HELLO** this way:

H is for "Hello."

When we greet people it is important to be fully present in that moment and focused on each person. We will have other times to talk to our friends and teammates, but in those moments, we need to focus on our guests.

E is for "Engagement."

When you engage a guest, you move from a cordial recognition to a personal conversation that might include introductions, question asking, and information giving.

L is for "Listen."

We need to learn to listen more than we speak. Appropriate eye contact is important. It communicates interest, empathy, and focus. Miscommunication is often the result of poor listening.

L is for "Listen some More."

Maybe restating the question, or asking about what they are asking may be helpful.

O is for "Offer Assistance."

A. Once you know what the person needs, you are ready to offer assistance.

B. Remember two priorities

*If you can offer the assistance personally, do it.

*Never point guest to a destination. Find a way to take them or have someone else take them.

May every person who comes in contact with our community of faith be overwhelmed with our life-changing **attitude** of radical hospitality in 2009 and always!

For the cause of Christ and the glory of God,

Terry



Susie and Fred Girard extend a dose of 'Radical Hospitality' to Tom Snoddy before the worship service on Sunday, Jan. 18. Susie and Fred are two of the **First Impressions** team members who staff the new information center in the sanctuary building. It is located in the bell tower entry, north of the sanctuary. The information center in the fellowship hall will be finished soon.

More New Ways For You To Serve

1



The class for people in their 30's is scheduled to begin February 1. Chris Garrett will be leading the class and invites all who are in their 30s (or thereabouts!) to come check it out. The classroom will be on the second floor.

3

The Body

Love in Action

“The Body” is a group of disciples of Jesus Christ, ready and willing to serve others by helping with home repairs and other services for those in need. We invite you to join us on specified Saturdays as we put Christ’s love into action.

How would you like to help?

- Worker
- Prayer Support
- Organizer
- Financial Support
- Other: _____

For more info contact Karen Ward, 580-5884.

2



Becki Smith is turning her passion of recycling all of the leftover worship bulletins each Sunday into a ministry that is a simple way of caring for the earth. If you, too, are concerned about the amount of paper, cardboard,



plastic, and aluminum that goes into the trash every day, contact Becki to help her establish and use recycling centers throughout the church campus. Colorsmith1@yahoo.com or 367-2701.

Becki shows the papers gathered from just two pews after a traditional worship service.

4

First Impressions Team

First impressions last. If you are the kind of person who never meets a stranger, consider joining the Hospitality Team. Contact Susie Williams, 362-6274, or Julie Garrett, 272-2461, for details.



First Impressions Team member Hank Jones (r) greets Dan Brazelton in the parking lot on Sunday, Jan. 18. Hank serves double-duty in his ministry to the church. In addition to practicing ‘Radical Hospitality,’ Hank is also responsible for lining up the lay readers for the traditional worship service.

5

First Response Team

First Response Team members meet Monday afternoons to send handwritten cards to every guest who attends one of our Sunday morning worship services. This happens the day after the preaching pastor calls first-time guests on Sunday afternoon.

If you are shy, this is the part of Radical Hospitality that is easy to do!

If you are interested or would like more information, please call the church office at 337-1527 or contact Rev. Jeanie Williams at JeanieWilliams@fumcodessa.org

Expressing Discipleship Through Giving



2009 Finance Team members believe stewardship is a spiritual ministry that is an expression of faith. Team members (front) Thelma Reeves, Cindy Fowler, (back l-r) Mark Simpson, Terry Tamplen, Gary Malone, Glenn Smith, and Lynda Fowler participate in an orientation conducted by Marilyn Large (r), from the UMC Foundation. Team members not pictured are Jim Brown, Lynn Correa, Dale Holloway, Clyde Shugart and Dick Sivalls.

In the orientation session for the 2009 Finance Team, the director of education from the UMC Foundation in Albuquerque stated that there are 1,357 verses in the Bible dealing with believing, prayer, and love. However, there are 2,172 verses in the Bible referring to possessions and giving. Marilyn Large stated that management of our possessions is the second most common topic Jesus discussed, with one-third of His parables discussing giving.

She exhorted the team to establish a scriptural foundation for the congregation that reflects giving in God's world based on seven components of understanding: 1) God is the source of all that we have, and everything that we have is God's; 2) The Bible is our standard, and the tithe is the primary biblical teaching about giving; 3) Stewardship is a

spiritual ministry; 4) Giving in the Wesleyan tradition moves beyond individual charity to building communities of interconnectedness; 5) As an expression of faith, stewardship is grounded in and emerges from a deep and abiding gratitude; 6) Giving is an expression of discipleship, not an obligation; and 7) Stewardship connects people with the mission of the church.

The Finance Team began their first meeting on Jan. 15 with each member reading a scripture representing their philosophy of giving. Glenn Smith cited 2 Corinthians 9:6, "But this I say: He that soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly, and he that soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully." Finance Chair Lynda Fowler quoted Luke 6:38, "Give and it will be given you...for whatever measure you deal out to others will be dealt to you in return."



For many years now, Johnnie Williams has decorated the monthly birthday cake presented to Spice of Life members. Johnnie is the daughter of long-time Spice of Life member Hazel Suggs. Johnnie prefers to stay behind the scenes, but this month she is highlighted with another of her delicious and beautiful masterpieces. Johnnie also serves her church by creating the artificial floral arrangements that adorn the sanctuary and church offices.

Random Acts Of Kindness Equal Radical Outreach

The appointment of Kris Riley as director of outreach for FUMC-Odesa helped achieve at least three of consultant Bill Easum's recommendations in one step.

Easum, whose recommendations are designed to stem the steady decline in worship attendance and point FUMC toward being a discipleship church, expressed the need to reconfigure the church staff, dedicate a staff member to outreach and raise the visibility of the church in the community.

Kris, who formerly worked in children's ministry, will now spend her time searching opportunities to both change and raise the image of the church in the community through "servant evangelism." Kris quickly urged everyone not to be put off by that term.

"Actually, all it means is doing random acts of kindness and telling



Director of Outreach, Kris Riley uses the new poster-size printer donated to the church by long-time member Greg Wood. Thanks to Greg, staff and volunteers will save thousands of dollars printing the banners and posters used to promote church events.

the community that this church cares about you," Kris explained.

Kris said she will need a lot of help to accomplish her goals and that she is in the process of forming an outreach team. "I need volunteers with a passion for outreach to help me brainstorm ideas and then start going out into the community on behalf of the church."

Kris and her team will also be a resource for small groups who will be encouraged to develop and carry out mission and outreach projects of their own.

"I am a little nervous, but excited," Kris said of her new job. "It's a great opportunity for me and the church," she said. Senior Pastor Terry Tamplen agreed. "Kris has the gifts and graces, and the interest, to take on this important task."

—LaDoyce Lambert

Youth Begin 2009 Focused On Growing As Disciples

The first weekend in 2009, fifty-two youth and adults gathered near Rocksprings, Texas at Camp Eagle to begin the new year in a special way. We gathered to study scripture, talk about our faith and spiritual journeys,



Erin Scharlach and Anthony Vickery light candles at one of the prayer stations.

experience prayer, learn about God's will for our lives, and talk about the importance of Christian fellowship. The weekend used a lot of different elements to help us grow closer in our walk with Christ. There were times that we were in small groups; some time was spent in a lecture/experience type setting; and time was spent in worship and prayer. We also had fun going through low ropes courses and building trust by rappelling and going on the zip line. We also had time to build friendships through free time as we hiked, played, sat by the river, made s'mores at the

bonfire, and just rested. The goal of the weekend was to focus on being, and growing, as disciples of Jesus Christ. It also had a leadership



Nathan Sanchez and Oscar Ramos dare to repel down the mountain.

emphasis for the students. We look forward to more events like this one, as we learn what it means to be a youth community that "welcomes all people into a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ and others."

—Rev. Donnie Williams



Above: Team members work to get everyone up and through the opening from the ground in this team building activity.



Claire Osborn gets ready to take a trip down the zip line.

We Exist To Love Our Neighbors, Near and Far

One of First Methodist's longtime outreach programs, the Inter-Faith Sewing Center, needs your help.

A drive is being conducted to collect clothing scraps and other material which could be used in the center's sewing classes. The women taking the classes are making clothing and other items like quilts and pillows for their families.

Donors may bring their leftover materials to the church and leave them in a box to be provided outside the Builder's Sunday School classroom, or call Evelyn Bauman at 563-2029 to have them picked up.

The Inter-Faith Sewing Center was an outgrowth of a study on poverty conducted by Methodist Churches in the 1950's. At first, the focus was on teaching Hispanic adults the basics of reading English. That task was soon transferred to Odessa College, and the church people involved, including the United Methodist Women, turned their attention to teaching women how to sew.



UMW member Mary Sue Carey has lost count of how many caps she has crocheted for children. Many of the 92 caps sent to Four Corners, NM this year were done by Mary Sue. She also serves as the secretary to the Wesley Couples Class. She was honored last year as the outstanding Volunteer In Public Schools with her service to children at Gonzales Elementary.

Throughout the years, the UMW of First Methodist Church has stayed connected with the center, providing support, teachers and center directors. Doreen McCreless of FUMC was a director of the center for many years. Mary Jane Malone is currently on the center's board. The Builder's Sunday School Class has been a regular monetary contributor to the center for years.

And while FUMC members are looking through their closets for materials for the sewing center, Evelyn Bauman suggests they also look for any excess yarn they might have on hand. One of the projects of the United Methodist Women is to make caps and mittens for the Navajo children at Four Corners, New Mexico. Evelyn said this past year the UMW sent the children 92 caps and 26 sets of mittens, all hand knitted by its members.

—Evelyn Bauman and
LaDoyce Lambert

Recycle, Reuse Brings Rejoicing To Presidio



(Above) Les King stands in front of one of the three trailers full of items for the mission in Presidio. Much of the furniture will be used in the orphanage across the Rio Grande in Ojinaga.

Don Wright, Buddy McDonald, and Les King surround Rev. Francisco Escalera before unloading three trailers full of furniture that were delivered to the mission in Presidio in December. Donations came from our church as well as Highland and St. Luke's United Methodist churches.

Did you know...

... **FUMC** ended 2008 by paying 100% of our Shared Ministries?

... a new **College Age Small Group** will kick off at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 3 with a Board Game Kick-Off Party at 1806 E. 21st ?

... **Emily Scharlach** finished 4th in the Odessa Junior High Tennis Tournament on Nov. 22 for the Bonham Owls seventh grade tennis team?

With Sympathy to

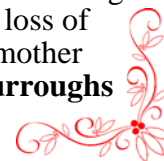
Family & friends
for the loss of
Virginia Beene

Family & friends
for the loss of
Carrie Fowler Cooper

Louise Latham
for the loss of her son
Clarence Ed Latham Jr.

Lori & David Nelson
Chris, Jayme & Sarah
Doris Rodolph
and Genelle Felio
for the loss of
Robbie Nelle Hamilton

Joe & Karen Burroughs
for the loss of
Joe's mother
Dixie Burroughs



Birthdays January 17-31



January 17
Maria Serna

January 18
Charles Berlin
Don Blair
Carole Lucas
Lee Forrest
Lance Brooks

January 19
Marcy Weatherby
Jean Gillen
Courtney Carlson

January 20
Steve Riley
Teresa Owens

January 21
Karen Ward
Chris Garrett
Jessie Scott

January 22
Jared Squyres

January 23
Ruff Ahders

January 24
Judy Withrow

January 25
Maxine Smith
Linda Terrell
Tammy Hawkins

January 26
Christine Storm
Chase Gilbert
Alison Heard

January 27
Marie Robertson
Lynn Correa
Jennifer Collins

January 30
Christi Hansen

Memorials

To the Memorial Fund
In memory of
Scott Abernethy
Given by
Billy & Deborah McPherson

To the Memorial Fund
In memory of
Carrie Fowler Cooper
Given by
Mary Lu Shaw

To the Memorial Fund
In memory of:
Ora Ruth Withrow
Aubrey Barlow
Given by
Sam & Katheryn Howell

To the Memorial Fund
In memory of
Aubrey Barlow
Given by
Grace & Janis Miller

To the Choir Fund
In memory of:
Jackie Hanson
Mae Best
Given by
Mark & Kim Johnson

To the Youth Fund
In memory of
Jackie Hanson
Given by
Sam & Katheryn Howell

To the Youth Fund
In memory of
Aubrey Barlow
Given by
Eddie Guilbeau



To the Funeral Dinner Fund
In memory of
Virginia Beene
Given by
Mary Lu Shaw

To Children's Clothes Closet
In memory of
Megan May
Given by
Dan & Robbie Brazelton

To Children's Clothes Closet
In memory of
Aubrey Barlow
Given by
Dan & Robbie Brazelton



First United Methodist
Church-Odessa
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Odessa, TX 79761

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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.

FOCUS ON THE FAMILY® ANNOUNCES A LANDMARK SIMULCAST EVENT:

FOCUS ON MARRIAGE™

Seeing your marriage through the eyes of God



Beth Moore



Dr. Gary Smalley



Dr. John Trent



Gary Thomas



Dr. Del Tackett

LIVE VIA SATELLITE **FEB. 28, 2009**

Presented by: **FOCUS
OF THE FAMILY**

Powered by: **GEN**

8:30—3:30 in Fellowship Hall

Register online at www.fumcodessa.org or call 337-1527

\$15 per person or \$25 per couple includes lunch

Childcare available by reservation