



First United Methodist
Church-Odessa
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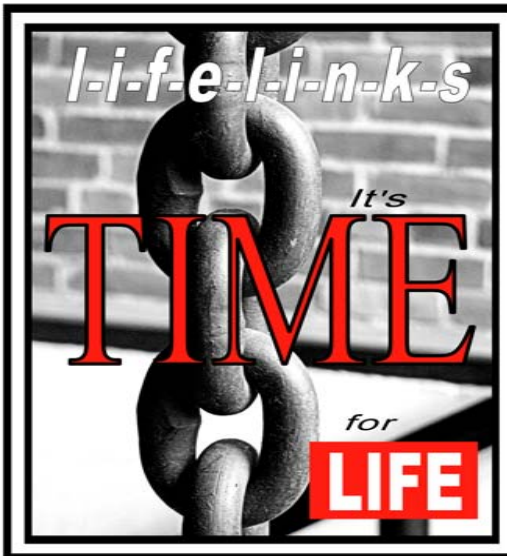


Join Us This Sunday

- 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.

Interested in leaning more about what we are all about at FUMC? *l-i-f-e-l-i-n-k-s* is the first stage in our discipleship process.
Next Session: Sun. January 18 3 – 6 p.m. Dinner Included



Sign-up online or call
Jeanie Williams @ 337-1527



Beaming smiles abound following the celebration of holy baptism for Joshua Lewis on Sunday, December 21. Pictured front l-r: aunt Justine Ward, mom Christy Lewis holding Joshua, aunt Melissa Lewis holding cousin Colton Lewis. Middle row: great aunt Karen Ward, great grandfather Bob Ward, grandmother Cindy Lewis, and uncle Randy Lewis. Rev. Donnie Williams, pictured in back, and Rev. Terry Tamplen participated in the baptismal service.

**A NEW
YEAR
&
NEW
OPPORTUNITIES**

First United Methodist-Odessa

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 1

January 9, 2009

**HIGH DEFINITION
living**

Starting January 18, we will begin a journey toward a better life. Join us as we discover how God can change our lives and make in us a life that is bigger, bolder and brighter than we've ever known.

This five-part sermon series explores living life in *High Definition* through Relationships, Finances, Service and more.

Tune in January 18!

January 18 - Live Life In High Definition

"My purpose is to give life in all its fullness...more and better life than you've ever dreamed of."
— John 10:10

February 1- High Definition Service

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



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 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

**Methodist Missionaries
Ask Us To Join Them In
The Army Of God**



Timothy International missionary Janie Burkhalter shows Jonell Sims beads crafted by the wives of ministers in Uganda.

We do "a lot of stuff," is how Methodist missionary Rick Burkhalter described his and his wife Janie's ministry through Timothy International. On Sunday, Jan. 4, the Texas couple showed the congregation captivating pictures of their work in Uganda and talked about the plans to expand into Peru. After the presentation, members were given the opportunity to purchase beads made by the wives of ministers or purchase coffee grown in Uganda. Rick stated he is not shy about asking us to help, either through prayers or financial support. If he does not ask, and we don't give, then children in Uganda will not be fed or schooled and young girls in Peru will not be rescued from sexual abuse. He explained how \$10 a month changes the life of a child by providing them food, clothing, education and a church. Learn more about Timothy International at www.timothyinternational.com.



Terry Tamplen

In 2009: "Pray like everything depends on God; work like everything depends on you."

I don't remember who I heard that from, but I believe it is a good word for us as we move into the New Year. It is a good word because the time has come to implement the strategies for church growth that we received and adopted from consultant Bill Easum in September 2008. We've got work to do! Those strategies are:

1. Become more hospitable by November 1, 2008.

A First Impressions Team has been recruited, and 33 people have received training for Parking Lot and Door Greeters and Welcome Center Hosts.

2. Expand your Discipleship Process by December 1, 2008.

A First Response Team has been recruited, and they have developed a comprehensive discipleship process that begins when a person is a first-time guest at FUMC.

3. Increase visibility in the community beginning in January 2009.

We begin this month by promoting our first "hot-topic" sermon series, "High Definition Living," through newspaper, direct mail, and television to the Odessa community.

4. Reconfigure staff to insure that someone spends 20 hours per week organizing the church for outreach in the community.

Increasing the visibility of FUMC in the community involves outreach – getting our people involved in servant evangelism throughout the year. I have great expectations that Kris Riley, who formerly worked with children's ministry, will give us ample opportunities throughout the year to express our care for the community and increase awareness of our presence here.

"Pray like everything depends on God; work like everything depends on you."

This is a great word, because it reminds us that our work is both vertical and horizontal. Jesus said, "Apart from me you can do nothing." The Apostle Paul said, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Our vision to be a community that welcomes all people into life-changing relationships with God and others will be greatly advanced as we faithfully ask God to help us.

For the glory of God and the cause of Christ,

Terry

Money Management Fellowship Hall 10:30-2:30
Saturday, Jan. 24

Register online at www.fumcodessa.org.

Release Fear Of Financial Burdens



Dick Towner



Susan McCarthy



Matt Bell

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.

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. It's a stage on which we play out all of our dramas. 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 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 e-newsletters and has been a guest on several nationally syndicated radio talk shows. His first book, *Money, Purpose, Joy*, was published in September 2008.

Did you know...

...**Axtin Wood** played with the Reagan Texans Junior Varsity football team in the City Championship in November, and with the help of Coach **Jason Wood** the team ended the season with a 7-1 record?

...Members of the West Texas Tennis Team: **Lady Hawkins, Doris McElmurry** and **Joy Pollard** placed first at the 2008 Texas Senior's Tennis Tournament Women's Super Seniors?

...**Karin Carlson** has been selected for the OC Leadership Institute?

...**Junior** and **Yanet Galvan** are the proud parents of a new baby boy, **Joshua Nathaniel**, 6 lbs 1 oz, born December 14?


...**Cathy Womack** and **Harold McKelvain** were married at FUMC on December 20?


...**Bob & Sheri Murray** have moved to Spring, TX?



Shelby Schlueter and grandmother Jackie Schlueter receive communion on Sunday, Jan. 4 from Tammy Stallcup (r) and daughter Amanda Stallcup on Amanda's 18th birthday.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JANUARY 1-15

JANUARY 1 Buddy McDonald Jayme Nelson Sarah Nelson	 JANUARY 6 Jim Findley Shelly Weaver	JANUARY 11 Mary Howell Tommy Trainor
JANUARY 2 John Weaver	JANUARY 7 Sherry Talley Tanda Curry	JANUARY 12 Bob Bailey
JANUARY 3 Voncile Strait Debra Meador	JANUARY 9 Heather Wood Amanda Stallcup Michaella Hansen	JANUARY 13 Jennifer Robinson
JANUARY 4 Gavin Thompson	JANUARY 10 Isabella Wood	JANUARY 14 Shellie Childers Sheri Murray Julie Garrett Abby Bishop Garrett Morgan
		JANUARY 15 Aaron Cox David White II



Cindy and Phil Fouche for the loss of Cindy's brother-in-law Bill Ptacek

Mike and Judy Withrow, Chris, Steve, and Matt for the loss of Mike's mother Ora Ruth Withrow

Rhonda and Dan Ferguson for the loss of Rhonda's uncle Don Carter

Friends and family of Aubrey Barlow

Our Heartfelt Sympathy to:

Memorials

<p>To The Memorial Fund In memory of Mary Jo Bostick Given by Jan Bostick Reed</p> <p>To The Body Ministry Fund In honor of Carole & Howard Millsap's 50th Anniversary Given by Buddy & Sue McDonald</p>	<p>To The Youth Fund In memory of Myrtle Brazelton Given by Challengers Class</p> <p>To Children's Clothes Closet In memory of Robert A. Coleman Given by Mrs. R.A. Coleman</p> <p>To The Choir Fund In memory of Jackie Hanson Given by M & M Sales Employees</p>	<p>To The Worship Committee In honor of Betsy Triplett-Hurt Given by: Kay Bramley, Lynda Fowler, Gloria Lambert</p> <p>To The Shared Ministries In honor of Cathy & Harold McKelvain's Wedding In memory of Scott Abernethy Given by 8 a.m. Sunday School Class</p>
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Three New Ways For You To Serve In 2009

1 First Response Team

- Do you like entering data into a computer?
- Do you want to have a part in welcoming our guests to First United Methodist Church?
- Do you have some free time on Monday afternoon or evening?
- Do you like to write notes?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, we have just the job for you!

We are looking for a group of people to form our **First Response Team**, who will help our pastor and staff follow up with our guests.

We will begin training for this team this month.

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.

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2 First Impressions Team



Outdoor greeter Christine Findley extends a warm handshake to Chris Johnson on the bitterly cold first Sunday in 2009.

“First Impressions last.” That’s how Rev. Donnie Williams began the orientation session for the new First Impressions Team on Sunday, December 7. Co-chairs Susie Williams, representing the traditional worship service, Julie Garrett, representing the contemporary worship service, and Rev. Donnie Williams are recruiting church members to serve as greeters and to staff the information centers located in the entries of the fellowship hall and in the bell tower. Greeters will be in the parking lots and at each entry of all the buildings. The info centers need two people to answer questions from visitors and members about church events or locations of classes.

This is being called a new ministry because the role of greeters has greatly expanded. The new effort was initially called “Hospitality Team.” As the members worked out all the details, it became clear that this group indeed creates the first impression that guests have of our church.

Susie and Julie are seeking volunteers for each worship service, for every Sunday of the year, every time there is an event at the church.

3 The Body

Love in Action

“For even I, the Son of Man, came here not to be served but to serve others, and to give my life as a ransom for many.” —Matthew 20:28

“The Body” is a group of disciples of Jesus Christ, ready and willing to serve others by helping out with home repairs and other services for those in need. Through Jesus Christ we can change our churches, change our city, change the world. Through Jesus Christ all things are possible. If you want to be a part of the change, then be a part of “The Body”—feet that go, hands that serve!

Are you a handy man or woman? Do you like to use your hands and feet to serve? 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 or Rev. Jeanie Williams at JeanieWilliams@fumcodessa.org.



New Christmas Worship Service

From the movie “Field of Dreams” came a catch phrase for the ages: “If you build it, they will come.”

The Christmas Eve service at FUMC-Odessa on Dec. 23 proved a similar point: “If you make the church more visible, you will get a great response.”

Following a promotional barrage through television, newspaper and direct mail, more than 200 persons, mostly families with young children, attended the experimental service on the night before Christmas Eve in Fellowship Hall.

It was the first real test of the daunting list of recommendations made in September by church consultant Bill Easum, designed to stem the declining trend of church attendance. Steps to make the church more visible in the community was at the top of Easum’s list.

Further proving the point, Senior Pastor Terry Tamplen estimated that at least 25 percent of those in the service were “new faces” who in the past had not attended an FUMC function.

Drawing them to the event were the opportunities for children to take part in an impromptu live Nativity



Santa kneeling before baby Jesus in the manger shows the true meaning of Christmas. Santa pays tribute at the Christmas Eve worship service to the holy family portrayed by Brooks and Courtney White and their son, Braxton.

scene and to have their picture taken with Santa Claus, who earlier had entered the Nativity tableau to kneel before the baby Jesus in the manger.

“Several told me they appreciated being able to come to church and not have to worry about their children disrupting the service,” Terry said.

As an outreach event, Terry considers it a success. “This is something the whole church should celebrate,” he said. “It was a positive and affirming experience.”

“The staff and I think it’s a keeper,” he continued. “We will want to do it again next year, but with an earlier start in planning and communicating with the public. It was a new concept this year, and we worked on a short timeline.”

Terry said plans are underway to follow up on those attending the Christmas Eve service in an attempt to retain them for future worship experiences. The new people at the service also got a preview of upcoming events, including the sermon series “High Definition Living” starting Jan. 18 and the simulcast on money management set for Jan. 21.

—LaDoyce Lambert

Enjoy more pictures and the coverage by The Odessa American on the First United Methodist Church website, www.fumcodessa.org

Children’s Ministry New Year’s Eve Bash 2009

Our Children’s Ministry counted down the new year together with worship, crazy games like Marshmallow Dodge Ball, pizza, more mallowes and lots of noise makers. We hope the year to come will be this much fun!



Remembering Christmas 2008



The Estep family sings carols at the 4:00 service.



The sanctuary is aglow by candles at the 7:00 worship service.



7:00 worship service advent lighting by Karis, Kennedy, and Aaron Cox.



4:00 worship service advent lighting by Emily Osborn and Tess Williams.



Children living with mothers in the Mission Messiah are delighted with the Christmas party hosted by Wednesday night women's small group.



Young adults coming home from college and work to conduct the 11:00 Christmas Eve worship service. Front row: Jake Frost, Holly Stallcup, Brooke Talley, Justine Ward, Sarah Baza, Perry Shelton. Second row: Eric Heard, Mark Owens, Kesslie Gilbert, Camille Vincent, Matt Wood, Travis Pool. Third row: Paul Girard, Mackenzie Smith, Michaele Smith, Katie Engebretson, Nick Oliver. Last row: Carson Coulter, Austin Shelton, Brett Talley, Kat Brown, Brent Sims, Haylee Oliver.



Sanctuary choir singing carols to Mildred Reed.



7:00 worship service communion served by Taner & Jalyynn Drake and Paula & Scott Coulter.

Enjoy more Christmas Pictures on the First United Methodist Church website, www.fumcodessa.org.

