

Texas Methodist Chorale Sings Praises In England—Homeland Of Wesleyan Heritage



The 90+ member Texas Methodist Chorale, consisting of choirs from United Methodist churches in Amarillo, Deer Park (Houston Metro), Fort Worth and FUMC Odessa, under the direction of Randy Talley, his brothers Billy and Barry, and Robert Stovall. The ensemble included 27 voices from Odessa.

About a year and a half ago, four choral music directors involved with four different United Methodist Churches from around the state of Texas began the dream of creating a choral ensemble that would involve members from each of the director's choirs. The three Talley brothers, Randy, Billy and Barry, along with long-time friend

"I'm sure that John and Charles would have enjoyed it!"

—David Worthington,
 New Room in Bristol, England

Robert Stovall, decided they would combine their choirs from Odessa, Amarillo, Deer Park and Fort Worth into what would become known as the *Texas Methodist Chorale*. By mid-June 2011, the 90-voice Texas Methodist Chorale, along with supportive family, friends and clergy, had arrived in England, the home of their Wesleyan roots, where they would perform and share an array of sacred American music at several venues steeped in Methodist heritage. Twenty-seven of the ninety voices were from the FUMC Odessa Sanctuary Choir.

The entourage performed at three venues, including Coventry Cathedral in Coventry, the New Room in Bristol and Wesley's Chapel in London. The body of music performed by the ensemble consisted of 10 choral pieces focused on gospel and spiritual music, as well as a composition written by Barry Talley, *Of the Father's Love Begotten*. Each of the four directors shared the conducting responsibilities.

At Coventry Cathedral, all 10 choral pieces were performed. Coventry was virtually destroyed in World War II. Out of its ashes,

(Continued on page 4)

The IMAGINE MORE Journey

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AND WHEN DO WE GET STARTED ON THAT NEW PLAYGROUND?

EARLY APRIL 2011 – CELEBRATION SUNDAY – Pledges total @ \$1.6 million towards the goal of \$1.8 million; \$579,000 cash received for the first fruit offering.

LATE APRIL 2011 – Church Council meets to:

- Establish JSA Architects, Inc. with Larry Johnson as the Administrator for *Imagine More* Projects.
- Establish Tommy Hawkins as general contractor for FUMC projects.

EARLY MAY 2011 – Church Council meets with Larry Johnson to review the process for developing and completing the Playground/ Plaza development project.

EARLY MAY 2011 – FUMC COMPLETES *FIRST* PROJECT BY SENDING \$30,000.00 TO *IMAGINE NO MALARIA!* We celebrated 3,000 lives saved as a result of this gift!

MAY 2011 – Staff members Terry Tamplen and Cindy Lewis; Church Council members Larry Hackleman, Brian Whytlaw and William Nall; Trustee members Scott Wilson, Danny Schnaubert and Jay Stovall are assigned as the building committee for the *Second* Project- Playground / Plaza / Rodman Renovation.

JUNE 2011 – Tommy Hawkins renders general estimates for the *Second* project and Larry Johnson reviews the plans with the building committee based on those estimates. The building committee recommends to the Church Council to move forward with the vision of the *Second* project with some minor adjustments. Church Council unanimously approves.

JUNE 2011 – Tommy Hawkins returns to Larry Johnson with sub-contractor bid estimates and Larry Johnson reviews with building committee.

JULY 19, 2011 – Architect Larry Johnson reports - We anticipate that bids will be received, reviewed and accepted in July. The project will be awarded and contracts signed allowing insurance certificates to be prepared to allow construction to begin in early August. Actual on-site construction will begin when the contractor's projected construction schedule is reviewed by the architect and implemented in an orderly process.

Want to find out how you can participate in the *Imagine More* Journey?
Give me a call at 432-337-1527

Pastor Terry



Terry Tamplen
Senior Pastor



Church's Overwhelming Response

On behalf of the Challengers Sunday School Class, Julie Brown helps Yadi Ainsworth load Julie's vehicle with donations to the family on July 12. They filled the vehicle with household goods given to the family by church members.

The Challengers decided to help the Ainsworth family as their Sharing Life project after learning about the horrible car accident involving the family in May. Yadi's husband, Thomas, has not been able to work since the accident, as he is recovering from his injuries which included the amputation of his left leg. Tears of gratitude filled Yadi's eyes as she expressed how wonderful her church family has embraced them in this dire time of need. Yadi, Thomas and sons Ian and Tyi attend the contemporary worship service.

Extravagant Generosity

Mega Sports Means Mega Fun

K-6th Graders Learn About Football, Soccer, Basketball, Cheerleading And "Finishing the Race."



Intentional Faith Development

June 6-10



Preschool Mega Sport campers learn all about "Sharing Love" and how to be a good sport at their camp on July 4-8.



(Texas Methodist Chorale from page 1) a modern cathedral, which features a 100-foot tapestry of Jesus, arose in the 1950's and has come to represent healing in the world. According to FirstUMC Odessa director Randy Talley, "Our concert at Coventry was a highlight for many of the choral members."

The New Room in Bristol is



Our choir members pose in the courtyard of Coventry Cathedral.

known as the oldest Methodist church in the world. This is where John Wesley and his fellow preachers lived and preached. A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to receive holy communion before the concert in this setting was an especially meaningful part of the trip.

Each of the four choral directors actually conducted the musical performance from John Wesley's elevated pulpit. Clergy members from the touring group, including Terry Tamplen, David Weyant and Ed Williamson, also "tried out the same pulpit."

David Worthington, manager of the Bristol New Room said, "We were all very impressed with the quality of the singing, and it was fantastic to experience the

performance in such a historic location. I'm sure that John and Charles would have enjoyed it!"

At Wesley's Chapel, the ensemble was the musical centerpiece for its Sunday worship service where local congregation members joined together in a common worship experience. "The acoustics and sound of the choir were excellent."

Reverend Jennifer Potter, worship leader at Wesley's Chapel, said, "This enhanced our worship on Trinity Sunday when we also had two baptisms and a thanksgiving for the life of

"Their enjoyment in being in the 'Mother Church of World Methodism' was palpable."

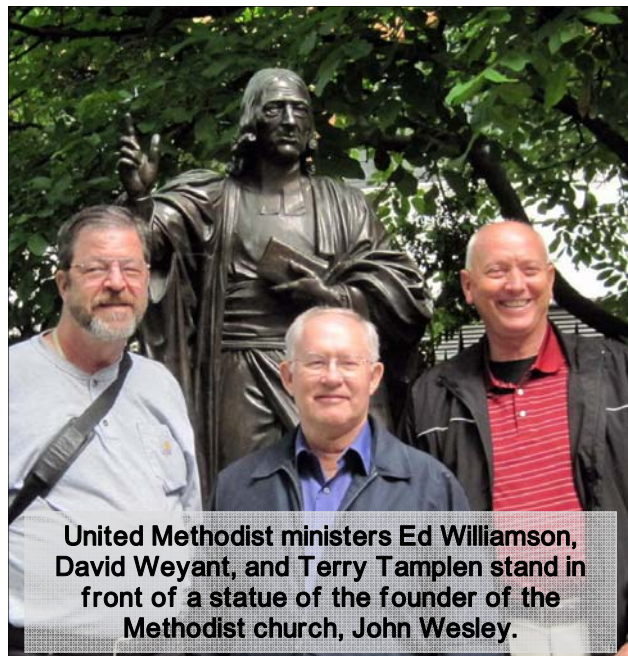
—Rev. Jennifer Potter
Wesley's Chapel, London

someone who had passed away. As well as their singing, their enjoyment in being in the 'Mother Church of World Methodism' was palpable - they entered fully into our worship, and it was just wonderful to have them sing both before the service and during the main service."



The four conductors stand in the pulpit where John Wesley preached in London.

Music on the trip was not limited to the Texas Methodist Chorale performing. On the last night of the trip, many in the tour took in some "Broadway-type" productions on London's West End. In addition, the group visited many English attractions including William Shakespeare's home, Warwick Castle, the Roman spa and cathedral in Bath, Oxford University and Windsor Castle. The days in London were spent touring the city and stopping for visits to sites such as The Tower of London and St. Paul's Cathedral. One free day at the end of the trip was reserved



United Methodist ministers Ed Williamson, David Weyant, and Terry Tamplen stand in front of a statue of the founder of the Methodist church, John Wesley.



Pianist Shari Santorelli plays a harpsichord that is located in Charles Wesley's home.

for travelers to see additional places that they wanted to see on their own. The group had members who toured the British Museum, the British Library, Westminster Cathedral, rode the London Eye ferris wheel, shopped at Harrods or Covent Garden, and even a few who witnessed the opening day of Wimbledon. For a major portion of those on the trip, this was the first time they had traveled abroad.

Randy Talley saw this effort as much more than the formation of a musical ensemble. "A sense of community developed. The four churches blended together and formed a family. When you sing in a choir, you take on a sense of oneness. Even those traveling with us who did not sing felt a special connection during this trip."

"I was also reminded of John Wesley's own words," said Talley, "'The world is my parish,' and I hope we can share that vision with our own congregation at FirstUMC Odessa."

Performances of the choir can be viewed on *YouTube* by typing in Texas Methodist Choir.

—Jon M. Smith

Charles Strackbein Crafts Cross & Flame for Chorale

For the past several years, one of FirstUMC's master woodworkers began making a variety of cross designs with a focus on the "Cross and Flame" symbol used by the United Methodist Church. In doing so, he developed a version made from oak that was distributed through the Weaver's Sunday School Class to several hundred visitors at the Sunday morning worship services.



Charlie carefully cuts out each wood component.



Charlie shows the step-by-step process from design transfer to finished cross.

In addition to that design, Strackbein also created another colorful version of the Cross and Flame to be suspended from a neck lanyard. When Charlie and his wife Ruth, a longtime member of the FUMC choir, decided to commit to the Texas Methodist Chorale trip to England, he decided he would make a wooden Cross and Flame for each member of the Odessa contingency.

The crosses are fabricated from a combination of pine and walnut and, according to Strackbein, require about two hours to make from start to finish using multiple tools and cutting instruments located in his woodworking shop.

Making a single cross requires multiple steps including design transfer, cut outs, layouts, assembling, sanding and painting several different wooden components.

Earlier this year, Charlie decided that he would make enough Cross and Flames for each of the 90+ voices that would make up the Texas Methodist Chorale. Then he decided, "Why not make one for everyone on the tour?" In doing so, he handcrafted over 160 crosses.

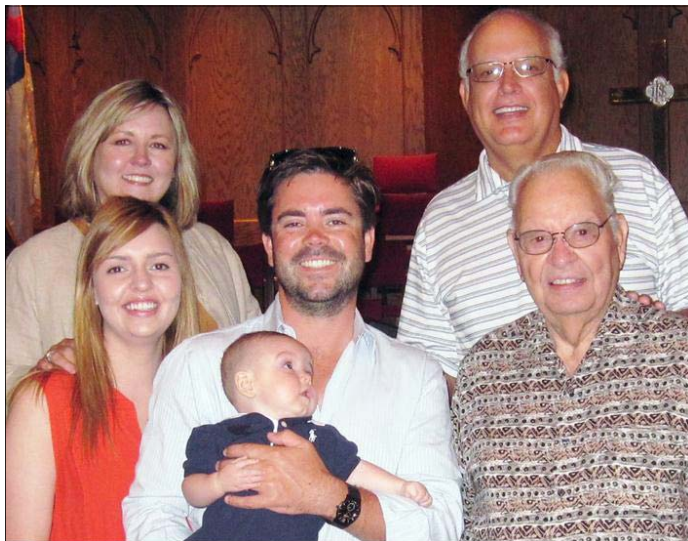
The reaction to his kindness has been "awesome," according to Strackbein. He said that those who received a cross were certainly appreciative. But for Charlie, the real gratification came from strangers who would walk up to someone wearing the Cross and Flame to ask about its meaning. "This gave me and many others the opportunity to relate the story of Methodism and our Christian faith to others."

In total, Charlie Strackbein has handcrafted over 200 Cross and Flame neck lanyards. He has no idea where his journey or that of his work products will take him. For him, it is a selfless gift that continues to give. —Jon M. Smith

**Extravagant
Generosity**

Joys Of The Church

The Children's Sermon on June 19 called for each child to hold up a letter spelling out F-A-T-H-E-R. Reagan Whytlaw and Beverley Kimble did a great job of orchestrating six children in ages between 8 and 2 years to hold up the letters. When asked what the letters spelled, one child joyfully replied, "Jesus!"



Four generations of the Schnaubert family attended worship on Father's Day. Back row: Susie & Danny Schnaubert. Front row: Lisa Schnaubert Brazile and husband Colby with their son Jack, and Danny's father, A.G. (Sonny), who completes the family tree.



Sara Jones is surrounded by her family as they celebrate her 90th birthday on June 26. Front row: Daniece Jones, Sara, and daughter Janet Oden. Back row: Hank Jones and Tal Oden. The family honored Sara by placing flowers in the sanctuary for the traditional worship service.



Dearest Church Family,
Please accept my deepest appreciation to all of you who volunteered for the Kids Golf Clinic. Thank you for your help with this outreach to the children of this community.

Sincerely,
Jeff Rea



Call the church office, 337-1527 by July 21 for \$10 tickets to this fun, family event. Or, purchase tickets at the ballpark for \$15. Tickets include admission, food and drinks.

July Birthdays

- | | |
|---|--|
| <u>July 1</u>
Alex Perez | <u>July 23</u>
Arin Dickerson
Joe Moss
Natalie Olson |
| <u>July 2</u>
Robert Abernethy
Frances Boyd
Colton Lewis | <u>July 24</u>
Becky Haynie
Pedie Hogan |
| <u>July 3</u>
Spencer Drake
Stephanie Latimer
Kaylie McPherson | <u>July 25</u>
Reba Blount
Debbie Heard
Jean Heggemeier |
| <u>July 4</u>
Kade Giesler
Sue McDonald
Trinity McLemore
Bill Rea | <u>July 26</u>
Clayton Blount
Kent Stallcup |
| <u>July 5</u>
Frances Everett | <u>July 27</u>
Lauren Lossin
Sande McAdams
Brian Whytlaw |
| <u>July 7</u>
Chilsun Marsh | <u>July 28</u>
Charlotte Crofts |
| <u>July 8</u>
Ted Hogan | <u>July 29</u>
Renee Faulkner
Gene Lyons
Travis Pool
David Weyant |
| <u>July 9</u>
Robbie Brazelton
Dillon Fanning
Beverley Kimble
Becky Latham
Hadley Whytlaw
Marvin Wilkins
Nick Williams | <u>July 30</u>
An Ell Crudup
LaDoyce Lambert
Mary Elaine
Williamson
Julie Zirix |
| <u>July 10</u>
Cole Contreras | |

Memorials and Honoraia

- | | |
|---|--|
| <u>Memorial Fund</u>
In memory of
Naomi Wilson
Given by
Mary Lu Shaw | <u>Choir Fund</u>
In memory of
Lucy McAdams
Given by
Ken & Ann McAdams |
| In memory of
Dick & Peggy Glover
Given by
Nick & Susie Williams | <u>Children's Clothes Closet</u>
In memory of
Lucy McAdams
Given by
Mrs. R. A. Coleman |
| In memory of
Lucy McAdams
Given by:
Minnie Goodman
Glen Hunt
Sue Hunt
Mary Lu Shaw | <u>Youth Fund</u>
In memory of
Lucy McAdams
Given by
Doris & John Mason |
| <u>Imagine More Fund</u>
In memory of
Lucy McAdams
Given by
Sue & Don Wright | <u>Children's Clothes Closet</u>
In honor of
Wade Howell's 90th Birthday
Given by
Ted & Pedie Hogan |

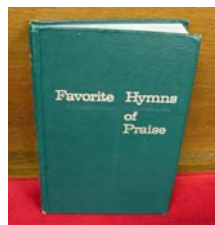


With deepest sympathy to...

- ...Jason Phillips and Courtney for the loss of Jason's grandmother, **Sylvia Hunt**.
- ...Ben and Sande McAdams, James and Holly for the loss of Ben's mother, **Lucy McAdams**.
- ...Scott and Jayme Wilson, Noah and Natalie for the loss of Scott's father, **Mike Wilson**.
- ...Eddie Guilbeau for the loss of his step-son, **Kenneth Schuepbach**.
- ...friends and family of **Anna Faulk**.



It was with sadness and best wishes that we said goodbye to Judy Morrell, our church receptionist, who retired on June 23. A beautiful reception was given in her honor as a small way of thanking her and celebrating her 8 years of dedicated service to FUMC. We will greatly miss her helpful and efficient front office presence, and wish her God's blessings as she and James enjoy a well-deserved retirement.



Free Hymnals Available

The Wesley Couples Sunday School Class would like to invite anyone interested to take one or several of the *Favorite Hymns of Praise* hymnals that are currently located in their classroom. If you know of a church or other organization that would like to have them, please call the church office, and we will be glad for them to come and get them.



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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.

A Disciple Never Rests: Please Consider These Ways Of Serving

Children's Clothes Closet

As back-to-school draws near, please consider donating clothes, especially jeans, uniforms and coats.

In addition, they can always use cash to purchase new underwear, socks, and shoes.

Last year, our Children's Clothes Closet clothed around 600 children. Approximately \$6,000.00 was spent on shoes. So cash donations are always needed!

Thanks so much,
Robbie Brazelton,
Clothes Closet chairwoman

August 13
Youth Garage
sale

**Please bring items
July 25 - Aug. 11
to Youth Building.**

*Items will not be accepted
after Aug. 11.*

**If you need items to be
picked up, call the church
office to schedule a pick-up
between Aug. 8-11.**

Please consider becoming a Kids Hope USA mentor for a child at Cavazos Elementary for the coming school year. Contact Kris Riley for an application.

Are you willing to sew biblical costumes for this year's *Night in Bethlehem*?

The church will provide the fabric and pattern. The costumes are simple, but we need quite a few!!

If you are interested in either of these community outreach ministries, contact Kris Riley at krisriley@fumcodessa.org or 337-1527.