

## Changing Lives, One Paintbrush Stroke At A Time

The saying that goes "Making plans is the fastest way to make God smile" comes to mind with the recent Sharing Life project undertaken by the Cornerstone Class and the Weavers Class. "The Plan" was to help a single mother clean, repair her current apartment, pack her items, and move those items into storage pending approval for new HUD housing. The HUD approval was not as expected, so "Another Plan" was created and the classes moved her items back into the same apartment, albeit one that was cleaner and painted. Read now the words of Lori and David Nelson who have been advocates for the single mother after becoming acquainted with her through KidsFirst, the ministry of our church where non-custodial parents attend supervised visits with their children.

**Lori:** Answered prayers brought us a donation of twin beds for her daughters so that they no longer had to share a bed. We also had the donation of a table and chairs for the kitchen. The children had been eating off the coffee table.

Lori says the girls still need a dresser for their room. **David:** The plumbing under the sink at that house was so bad that we thought it was contributing to the girls missing school because of illness. Robert Claiborne called me about a business matter on Friday before we moved the family back in. Robert knew the girls because we took them to contemporary service rehearsal on Thursday sometimes. I told him about the sink, and he said he would look at it. The next morning, he quietly came and fixed the leak at his cost, cleaned up the mold and left. Thank you, Robert. What a great church!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



Two girls help members of the Cornerstone and Weavers classes paint and make repairs in their apartment. Thanks to Lori Nelson for these pics from her cellphone showing Love in Action.

According to Lori, "David and I have been called over the past several months to listen to the *Whispers* that God has given us to help a family in need. The path has been difficult at times, and we could not have done what we've done these past several months without the help of a loving church family.

Every time we have called, someone in the church has responded. The response has come in the form of prayers, items that the family needed, financial assistance, strong backs and willing hearts. We have moved this family out of a challenging environment, cleaned the structure and then had to move them back into that same structure. Every time I sent out an e-mail asking for help, we had what we needed to get the job done.

I am so humbled to be associated with a group of people that understand what it means to be the Hands and Feet of God in our community. Please

accept this as our letter of appreciation to each of you for your love, support and hard work. I know there are two little girls that see you at work in their lives, and they have learned how to trust strangers and accept the presence of people in their lives that they used to fear.

Thank you again for all you've done to support us in this ministry.

Sincerely,  
Lori and David Nelson



Terry Tamplen  
Senior Pastor

## It's Time To Pack Up And Get Moving!

John 1:14 from The Message translation  
*"The Word became flesh and moved into the neighborhood."*

**G**od's nature is a "go to" nature! Jesus once said to his disciples, "As the Father sent me, so I send you." When we receive God's nature through the presence of the Holy Spirit, we become aware of this same drive. It's what the Apostle Paul described when he said, "The love of Christ compels us!"

I have recently completed a journey or at least the first phase of a journey. Over the past nine months I have participated in a community program called Leadership Odessa. I was somewhat resistant to the idea at first, since it would require a time commitment of one workday per month out of my schedule. There was also the "discomfort" factor of moving into this new "neighborhood" and meeting a bunch of unfamiliar people! But after further inquiry, I began to sense that Leadership Odessa could be a means of God's grace for me and many others, and indeed that's exactly how it turned out. In short I felt compelled. Following are a few of the blessings I received by participating fully in this adventure:

1. An increased scope of the rich history and legacy of Ector County.
2. A greater knowledge of the vast opportunities for employment and the many social agencies available to serve the wide range of needs in our community.
3. A heightened awareness of how I and my congregation can serve our community in cooperation with these agencies- we have so much to offer to so many in need!
4. Many new acquaintances and several new friends who have and are enriching my life significantly.
5. I discovered a "not so rough diamond" in another LO participant who is already making a huge difference at FUMC, along with his beautiful bride. If you haven't met Toby, Becky and Brylee Latham yet, you will soon, and you will know what I mean!
6. I realized more my own potential to live out servant leadership and make a good difference in the lives of others in whatever neighborhood *Love* moves me into!

What a joy-filled time this has been for me and I only want more! What about you? Where is *Love* compelling you? How will God become flesh in the neighborhood you will move into?

Start packing and let's go!

Terry



Senior pastor Terry Tamplen has two new plaques in his office from his recently-completed nine month *Leadership Odessa* class sponsored by the Odessa Chamber of Commerce. Pastor Terry was encouraged to join the *Leadership Odessa* program as part of the recommendations from our consultant, Bill Easum, as a means of increasing the visibility of our church and staff in the community. Completing the program is a worthy accomplishment. However, the ultimate compliment came during the final meeting, when Terry was given the "Natural Born Leader" award, as voted on by the 2011 participants. Congratulations, Pastor Terry!

# Senior Dinner 2011

## *A Night at the Oscars*



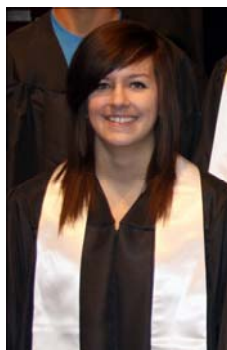
The evening was a "Star Studded" Success.



Kaitlyn Riley



Ashley Lively



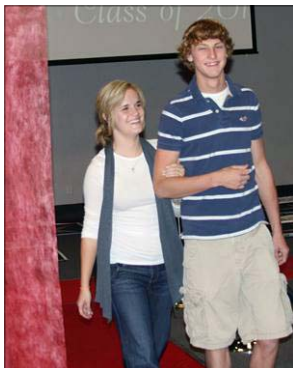
Taylor Vickery



John Weaver



The Fellowship Hall was transformed into a Hollywood gala opening, starring our 2011 Seniors.



Ryan Franklin walks the Red Carpet with Erin Scharlach.

True to every Hollywood movie set, there was a clapperboard to mark each scene. Our clapperboard reads:  
Production: 2011  
Director: Jesus



Hollywood pazzaz included each senior's name in a star with their handprints.



Claire Osborn (R) walks the Red Carpet with Shelby Schlueter.

# Senior Class of 2011

## Ryan Franklin

will be graduating from Permian High School and is the son of Roger and Turlaina Franklin. Ryan has been involved in the youth ministry program at First United Methodist Church. He attends Sunday School, Grace, Wednesday Night aLive, and has also participated in the summer mission trips. After graduation, Ryan plans on attending the University of Texas at the Permian Basin where he will pursue a BBA degree in Mechanical Engineering and a Master's in Business. He plans on opening his own business some day. His favorite Scripture is "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself." Matthew 6:34.



The majority of our seniors have been together since 6th grade. Here is the **Confirmation Class of 2005**. Steve Withrow, John Weaver, Davis Browning, Kaitlyn Riley, Emily Furst, and Claire Osborn.



Graduating seniors were honored during worship services on Sunday, May 15. (Front L-R) Taylor Vickery, Kaitlyn Riley, and Ashley Lively; (Middle L-R) John Weaver, Claire Osborn, and Ryan Franklin; and (Back) Rev. Donnie Williams, and Rev. Terry Tamplen.



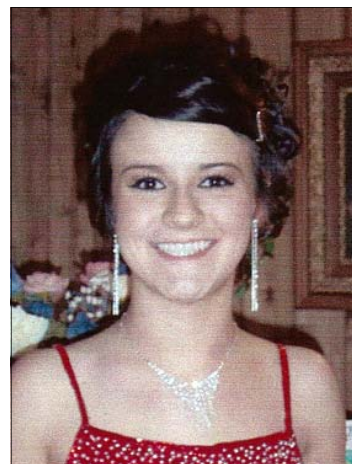
**Kaitlyn Riley** will be graduating from Permian High School and is the daughter of Dr. Steve and Kris Riley. Kaitlyn has been involved in the Permian Band for 2 years, the Permian Orchestra and Satin Strings, Texas Scholars and the National Honor Society while attending Permian. She is the Salutatorian of her class and has been honored by receiving awards such as the National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholar, the President's Gold Scholarship from Baylor, and the ECISD Award for Excellence in English. Kaitlyn has been involved in the youth ministry program through Grace and Blaze, Sunday School, Wednesday Night aLive, and other youth functions. Kaitlyn will have attended **all seven mission trips**. She has also gone on ski trips, retreats and mystery trips. After graduation, Kaitlyn plans on attending Baylor University where she will pursue a degree in Professional Writing and a minor in Creative Writing. Her favorite verse is from Jeremiah 29:13—"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."

senior profiles continue on page 6

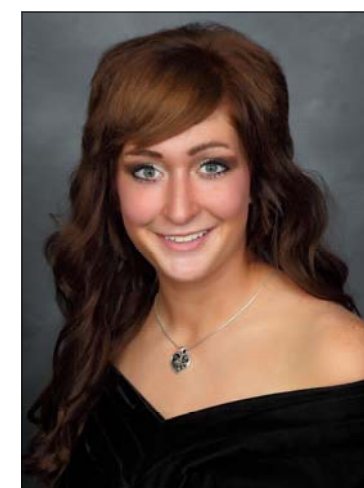


**Emily Furst** will be graduating from Permian High School and is the daughter of Dr. Matt and Suzette Furst. While attending Permian, Emily served as the Captain of the Cheerleading Squad and Sr. Lieutenant of the Panther Paws dance team. She was involved in the National Honor Society, Texas Scholars, Sophomore, Junior and Senior Boards, and was an Odessa Symphony Belle. Emily is in the top 5% of her class. She was honored by being

a part of the Homecoming Court, voted Senior Class Favorite, and a member of the Prom Court. After graduation, Emily plans on attending Texas A&M University where she will pursue a degree in Biology. Her favorite quote is "Don't worry about anything, instead pray about everything, tell God your needs, and don't forget to thank Him for His answers."



**Ashley Lively** will be graduating from Richard Milburn Academy and is the daughter of Lisa and Mike Lively. After graduation, Ashley plans on pursuing a college degree but is undecided on her major. Her favorite saying is "Just Believe."



**Claire Osborn** will be graduating from Permian High School and is the daughter of Sally Osborn. While attending Permian, Claire has been involved in the Panther Paws Dance Team, National Honor Society, UIL Writing Team, and Tammie Locklar Dance Studio. She has received honors for the Panther Silver Scholar and State and National Team Championships. Claire has been involved in the youth ministry through Grace and Blaze, Sunday School, and participating in ski trips, mission trips, and other ministry events. After graduation, Claire plans on attending Texas State University where she will pursue a degree in Dance Choreography. Her favorite Scripture verse is "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13, and her quote is "The day you start to die is the day you cease to dream."

# Senior Class of 2011



**Taylor Vickery** will be graduating from Permian High School and is the daughter of Richard Vickery and Michelle Martinez. While attending Permian, Taylor has been involved in the Permian Marching Band, and Band Sorority Tau Beta Sigma. She has received an award from the ECISD Awards for Excellence in Band and scholarships from the West Texas A&M Music Scholarship and J.R. Mcyntre Scholarship. Taylor has been involved in the youth ministry program through Sunday School, Grace, and Wednesday Night aLive, and has attended mission trips and ski trips. After graduation, Taylor plans on attending West Texas A&M where she will pursue a double major in Music Education and Performance. Her favorite Scripture is from Romans 12:1-2: *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.<sup>2</sup> Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*



## John Weaver

will be graduating from Permian High School and is the son of Dr. John Mark and Shelly Weaver. While attending Permian, John was involved in the Philanthropy program, was a member of the Permian Soccer team and District

Soccer Championship team, was chosen First Team All District, received the Optimist Soccer Award, and was selected for the Texas All Star State Soccer Team. He has also received the Presidential Award for Students in Philanthropy. John has been involved in the youth ministry program through Blaze, Grace and Sunday School and has attended youth retreats, ski trips, Mystery Trips, and other youth ministry activities. After graduation, John plans on attending the University of Texas at the Permian Basin where he will play soccer and pursue a degree in Engineering. John’s favorite verse is from Daniel 11:32—*“The people who know their God shall stand firm and take action.”*

## Stephen Withrow

has graduated from Midland Christian School and is the son of Mike and Judy Withrow. While attending Midland Christian, Stephen played baseball and was in the National Honor Society. Stephen was selected 3 times to the First Team All District and 2 times to the Second Team All State for baseball. He will attend Midland College in the fall where he will play baseball and pursue degrees in business and medicine. Stephen has been involved in the youth ministry program through Blaze, Grace and Lunch Bunch. He has also attended youth retreats and Mystery Trips. Stephen’s favorite Scripture is Colossians 3:23—*“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.”*





## June Birthdays

June 1  
Don Wright

June 4  
Marlee Williams

June 5  
Addison White

June 6  
Walyn Gibson  
John Hatten  
James Stephens

June 7  
Bill Heard  
Judy Ogilvy  
Sherry Snodgrass

June 8  
Paula Coulter

June 9  
Anne Dickson  
Heather Gardenhire

June 10  
Jordan Boen  
Raleigh Gregston  
Clayton Wardlow  
Scott Wilson

June 11  
Michelle Parker  
Karen Stovall  
Ruth Strackbein

June 12  
Becky Hall  
Blaine Leverett  
Shari Santorelli  
Grady Whytlaw

June 13  
Kevin Coursey

June 14  
Rick Browning  
Charles Grewell  
Jayme Wilson

June 15  
Matt Burleson

June 16  
Darrell Wells  
Donnie Williams

June 17  
Randy Talley  
Lynn Van Amburgh

June 18  
Kenny Kiphart  
London Leverett

June 19  
Madison Elrod  
Kimberly West

June 20  
Kyler Chavez  
Gary Malone

June 21  
Minnie Goodman  
Louisa House  
Merritt Owens  
Mary Robinson  
Marilynn Stevenson  
Chas Weatherby

June 22  
Justin Eccles  
Kim Schnaubert  
Janice Wilson  
Louise Wood

June 24  
Karalyn Marshall  
Jeff Rea

June 25  
Tiffanie Gardenhire  
Helen Grewell  
Hazel Suggs

June 26  
Jane Elrod  
Katie Engebretson  
Sara Jones

June 28  
Lyndzie Allbright  
Mike Forrest  
Melody Gilbert  
Hayden Leverett  
Patrick Lucas

June 29  
Codi Stephens  
Danny Stephens

June 30  
Benna Babb  
Larry Hackleman

In Loving



Memory

Children's Clothes Closet  
In memory of  
**Naomi Wilson**  
Given by:  
Minnette Goodman  
Ted & Pedie Hogan

Memorial Fund  
In memory of  
**Pauline Larum**  
Given by  
8:00 a.m. Class

Retired Minister's Fund  
In memory of:  
**Pauline Larum**  
**Naomi Wilson**  
Given by  
Letha Allen

It's  
a  
Girl!



Congratulations to Lindsey & Michael Forrest  
on the birth of their daughter  
**Sutton Blair Forrest**  
May 20, 2011 — 6 lb. 9 ozs.  
Proud big sister is Holly  
Proud grandparents are Mike & Jo Forrest



With Sympathy to...

...Wilma Tune in the loss of her sister  
**Naomi Wilson**  
...Lady and Buddy Hawkins in the loss  
of Lady's brother, **King Terry**



### Boy Scout Troop 91: Chartered & Ready To Go

The traditional worship service on Sunday, May 22 concluded in an unusual, but exciting way. The members of the recently-created Boy Scout Troop 91 presented to Pastor Terry and the congregation its official charter. Troop members and leaders marched in, carrying the brand new troop flag. Scoutmaster Paul Lucas reported that the troop began with seven members and has already grown to ten. It has been many decades since our church has been active with scouting, so this is viewed as another ministry to fulfill our mission to love others, invite them to join us as we follow Jesus Christ, empowered to make a difference in our church, community and world. After the worship service the troop sold delicious fajita dinners as a fundraiser for their activities.



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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.

**Intentional Faith Development**



**June 6-10**  
6:00—9:00 p.m.  
OC Sports Center  
Kids K—6th grade  
Register a child or volunteer to help by contacting Cindy at 337-1527 or [CindyLewis@fumcodessa.org](mailto:CindyLewis@fumcodessa.org)

**PassionateWorship**

**Sunday, June 5**  
**Combined Worship Service**  
**10:30 a.m. Sanctuary**  
**Join us for this special**  
**Worship Service of**  
**Music and**  
**Holy Communion**  
**9:30 a.m. — Sunday School**



**Summer Office Hours**  
**May 31 thru September 5, 2011**  
**Monday thru Friday**  
**8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**