



Thanking God For His Extravagant Generosity To Us

Consecration Sunday, the annual event that places emphasis on stewardship and funding the church budget for the coming year, will take on added significance this year.

Senior Pastor Terry Tamplen said that the budget will become more outreach oriented as FUMC-Odessa moves toward becoming a discipleship church.

Patterned after the last few years, Consecration Sunday will be held off-campus with a single service taking the place of the usual two worship services and the Sunday School hour.

The event is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, November 16 at the MCM Grande Fundome Hotel. A celebration luncheon will follow the service.



Rev. Todd Salzwedel
Community-UMC
Ruidoso, NM

Speaker for the event will be the Rev. Todd Salzwedel, pastor of Community United Methodist Church in Ruidoso, New Mexico.

Terry said the Consecration Sunday event also will tie into the current sermon series, "Life on the Edge," which stresses the five practices of a fruitful congregation.

He reminded that these practices start with radical hospitality, leading to passionate worship and intentional faith development, which ultimately lead to risk-taking mission and service, and finally to extravagant generosity.

The service on Nov. 16 will close out the sermon series by exploring generosity. "Generosity means an unselfish willingness to give for the purposes of Christ,"

Terry said, "But what does it mean for us to give extravagantly, going beyond expectations? Doing so, we'll find new ways to see the extravagance of God in our lives."

—LaDoyce Lambert

Consecration Sunday
2008

November 16

MCM Grande
FunDome Hotel

6201 E. Highway 80

10:30 a.m. - One Worship
Service

12:00 Celebration Luncheon

Childcare available for
newborns - 4 years of age

Congregation Expresses Gratitude to Clergy and Staff

Staff Appreciation Chair Susie Williams and her committee found a multitude of ways to offer thanks and support for FirstUMC staff and clergy during the last week of October. Such recognition included the hosting of a special luncheon, passing out sweets and other acts of love and appreciation.

The celebration culminated last Sunday when Pastors Terry Tamplen, Jeanie Williams and Donnie Williams received special presentations that included handmade wooden boxes for Terry and Jeanie and several items including a scrapbook for Donnie to use for his upcoming trip to the Holy Land. Staff Parrish Relations Chair Jim Carlson presided over this recognition opportunity.



Susie Williams and Jim Carlson (outside) present handcrafted wooden boxes to Pastors Jeanie Williams and Terry Tamplen and a pen set and scrapbook to Donnie Williams.

Carlson focused on the mesquite box given to Pastor Tamplen. It was handmade by Susie Williams' brother in Fort Worth. Carlson pointed out several meaningful metaphors relating

mesquite to the carrying out of God's work—it is extremely hardy, drought tolerant, such as the love of God.

—Jon M. Smith

Bill Easum Provides Follow-up To Recent Recommendations

Consultant Bill Easum made a follow-up visit to FUMC-Odessa this week to meet with the church staff.

In early September, Easum spent three days observing the church in action, assessing its membership and meeting with various groups, staff and leaders. Using the information he gathered from the visit and the results of a comprehensive ministry audit, Easum gave the church an extensive report in which he made several recommendations aimed at stemming the decline in worship attendance and moving from a membership culture to a discipleship culture church.

After spending two months digesting the report and making some plans to implement the recommendations, Senior Pastor Terry Tamplen felt it was time to ask Easum to be more specific about certain areas of the report.

During his time here this week, Easum met with Associate Pastor Jeanie Williams and Sue Wright

regarding his recommendation to expand the discipleship process *l-i-f-e-l-i-n-k-s* and how it assimilates all people into a life-changing relationship with God and others.

He expanded on how the staff should spend its time, what staff meetings should look like, and presented his ideas on goal-setting by the staff. Easum also articulated for the staff and church council representatives a leadership structure that will be more efficient and effective in implementing his recommendations and moving FUMC into a discipleship culture.

—LaDoyce Lambert



l-i-f-e-l-i-n-k-s 1 Membership Class—It's Time For LIFE!



l-i-f-e-l-i-n-k-s 1 study group learns who we are, what we believe, what it means to be a disciple of this community of Christ and what are our discipleship expectations. (Seated l-r) Shanna and Robert Flaherty, Tonya Smith, Jayme Nelson, Robert Mann, Justin Eccles; (standing front row) Wanda Shugart, Lori Nelson, Karen Stovall, Benton Overby, Aaron Cox, Rev. Jeanie Williams, Rev. Terry Tamplen; (back row) Jim Polhamus, David Nelson, and Jay Stovall.

Making A Difference One Family At A Time

Are you looking for an opportunity to help others? On Thursday evenings between the hours of 6:00 and 8:00 and occasional Saturdays from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., our church has been blessed with such an opportunity.

The organization is called **Kids First**. By helping just a couple of hours a week or even a month, you provide a way to help families stay together.

Kids First, a program sponsored by Centers for Children and Families, uses volunteers to help with supervised visitation between children and their non-custodial parent, as required by the court system. Without the supervision, these non-custodial fathers and mothers of children would not be able to see their children. By donating some of your time, you ensure that each child will get to see and visit with their parent.

The task is not too demanding. As a monitor, you watch and listen to the interaction between the parent and the children. You have the privilege of seeing that child come through the door and hug their parent. The parents are equally grateful. Last week one parent hugged me and told me how grateful she was that I was there. She stated that a week prior, there were not enough volunteers, and she was unable to visit with her daughter. She told me that it broke her heart.

We need your help so that this doesn't happen again! Please come join us. You will need to submit to a background check, and there is some time that will need to be spent in training. The short training class will be scheduled in the near future. For more information please contact Karen Stovall at 528-2116 or Jeannie Williams through the church office. Help us to help these hurting families!

—Mary Jane Malone



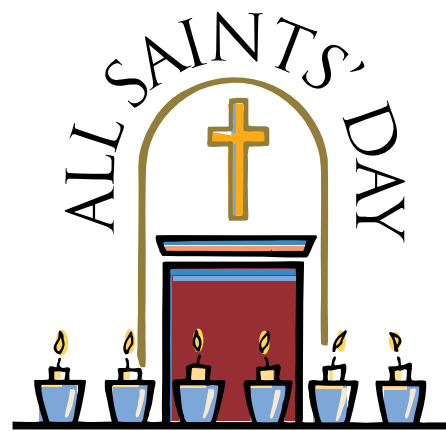
Volunteer Jay Stovall adjusts the camera used to record the supervised visits between a non-custodial mother and her daughter. Jay says this is important to him because it means so much to the kids. "What's a couple of hours of my time compared to the difference it makes to the life of a child?"



Volunteers Gary and Mary Jane Malone confer with Children's Protective Services employee Carol about their assignment for the night. Mary Jane urges anyone with a heart for children to become involved in this ministry.

Remembering Our Saints, Sunday, Nov. 2

C. R. Berkley
 Mae Best
 Jane Eliot
 Clifford Hankins
 Bryan Henderson
 Pat Pincham
 Frances Standifer



Lyndel Stephens
 Jordan Squyres
 Ava Swan
 Tom Tyler
 Carol Weyant
 Naomi Williamson

Youth Outreach Celebrates 20th Year

October 29 was the night of the youth's annual outreach event called **Pumpkinfest**. On that evening, students converged on Barn B of the Ector County Coliseum for a night of food, fun, costumes, pumpkin games, and worship. It was an exciting night that began with hamburgers and hotdogs and a time of hanging out together. Students entered wearing costumes ranging from iPods to roadkill. The costumes were great, and the students were very creative. Following the meal were the Pumpkin Games. We had a ton of them – Pumpkin Volleyball, Bash, Toss, Golf, Carving, Seed Spitting Contest, Pie Eating Contests, Pumpkin Hockey, Launch, and more! Everyone had a blast playing the games. Students were on teams and competed against each other in the competitions. Following the games, we moved into a time of worship led by our own student worship

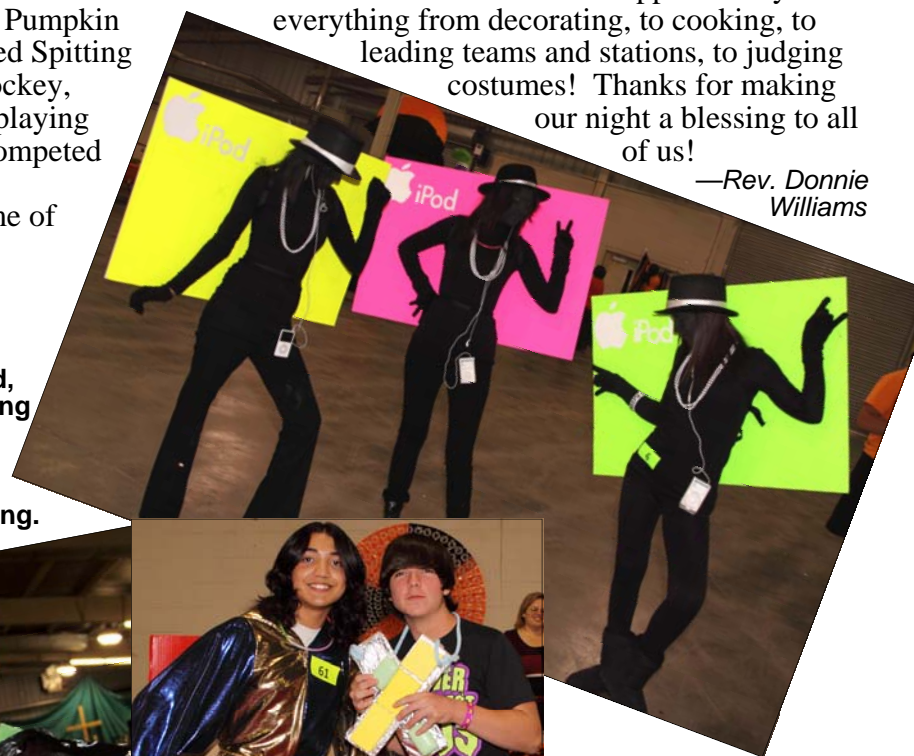
Above: Green 11 team takes a moment to show team spirit during the 20th annual Pumpkinfest.

Right: Hannah Johnson, Haleigh Fitzgerald, and Vanessa Vasquez have fun as they bring the ad for iPods to life.

Center: Arik Vega and Schuyler Stallcup. Below: Austin Reynolds, Davis Browning, and Mason Vincent compete in the pie eating.

team. Our speaker for the evening was the Reverend Tim Kennedy, who is the campus pastor at McMurry University. He spoke about being an authentic follower of Christ. This was our 20th annual fall outreach event. It began as the Great Pumpkin Hunt and has evolved into what is now **Pumpkinfest**. The night was a huge success, as we had fun, worshiped, and had 28 visitors join us for the evening. We want to say thanks to the more than 40 volunteers it took to make this event happen. They did everything from decorating, to cooking, to leading teams and stations, to judging costumes! Thanks for making our night a blessing to all of us!

—Rev. Donnie Williams



Children's Ministry Celebrates Fall



Young punkins have fun picking pumpkins at Fiddlesticks Farm.

Recently, all kids from the babies to 6th graders traveled to Greenwood to visit Fiddlesticks Farm. There was so much to see and do that we didn't know where to begin! We had great fun,



Ben Smith, Jayden Chavez, & Logan Smith

trying to find our way OUT of 3 different corn mazes, riding the cow train, shooting CORN

from a cannon, playing on the slides, jumping off of a giant hay bail, and picking our own pumpkin from the pumpkin patch! We had a "BIG TIME" enjoying the games and just hanging out with all our friends! A big "Thank You" to all the parents that went with us! We could not have done it without you!!!

—Cindy Lewis



Pumpkin picker, Alexis Galaviz

Slime Time was an ooey-goopy good time for everyone involved. We all had great fun on Sunday, October 26, as we played a wide variety of games. Some of the favorites were the Bobbing for Slime-covered Donuts, the Slime Scoop, Making Slime, and



Zachary Young bobs for slimy donut

several different toss games. After the kids



finished the games, they got to visit Professor Gizmo's Lab, where they participated in hands-on experiments



Prof. Gizmo, aka Chuck Forsyth

and learned that God loves them so much! Each child received a glowing cross necklace as a reminder that the light in the cross will fade, but they have God's promise of life forever when they ask Jesus to be their forever friend.

—Cindy Lewis

Making A Difference In Presidio and Ojinaga

Heartfelt Thank You

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, I want to thank you on behalf of the Presidio and Ojinaga missions for all your support. Since the flood, Martha and I have been able to distribute boxes of food and bags of clothes to people who have lost everything.

I want to thank you very much for helping me reach out to people. I really appreciate it. Your help came just in time!

Know that we will be praying for you. May God bless you always.

Francisco Escalera
Pastor, Presidio Mission

The United Methodist Women again are making Christmas stockings for an orphanage in Ojinaga, Mexico and the Presidio, Texas mission.

Please bring any of the listed items to the church office or give them to Minnie Goodman, Jean Heggemeier or Letha Allen.

Thank you for your support!

UMW Serves Kids



- Small stuffed toys & dolls
- Hand games, jacks, balls
- Candy, gum, animal crackers
- Crayons, markers, pencils
- Note pads, scissors
- Soaps, shampoo, rinses

- Lotions, creams, make-up
- Toothbrushes, toothpastes
- Hair brushes, combs

- Hair bows, barrettes, ribbons
- Coin purses
- Costume jewelry

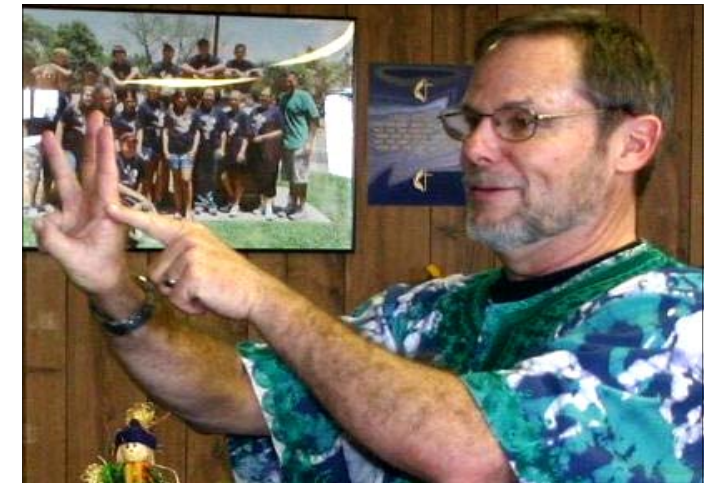
Making A Difference In Africa

Methodist missionary Rev. David Persons captivated the October meeting of Spice of Life with his telling of his missionary work in Mulungwishi, Democratic Republic of Congo. Despite his dire reports of how the war between the rebels and government troops is devastating the country and how 50% of children die by the age of five due to malnutrition, he brought a message of hope. Hope in that the United Methodist Church in Africa is growing at a rapid rate.

David explained that the church is growing in rural areas. Missionaries come to an area first to establish a chapel, then a school and finally a clinic. Schools and clinics are set up because the government provides those in cities, but not in rural areas. Last year, 80 new churches were established in the Congo, primarily due to the cholera epidemic. In this case, David said clinics were set up first. By showing the natives the love of God through medicine, it was easier to begin a church and schools.



David is the son of a Methodist missionary. He has served since 1979 as a missionary in the country he grew up in. David and his wife Lori are professors of



Rev. David Persons explains the traditional Methodist greeting in the Congo of raising three fingers on your right hand. It means "Jesus, Lord of all."

Biblical studies and missions at the Faculte Methodiste de Theologie in Mulungwishi. The couple was in the United States visiting the New Mexico Conference because his African conference is in partnership with its U.S. counterparts. Several adult mission work teams from Hobbs, New Mexico have traveled to Mulungwishi.

When asked what he wanted us to learn from his life's work, he quickly replied, "U.S. churches should not squander dollars, but should give generously to all. By the same token, God has given gifts to African churches, also to be shared by all."

—Betsy Triplett-Hurt

Trick or Treat @ Mother's Day Out



November 16
Marlene Rogers

November 17
Jack Duke
Gloria Lambert
Sarah Sellars

November 18
Joshua Lewis
James Lee
Gene Johnson
Nancy Sims
Vickie Watson
Victoria Galindo

November 19
Eric Heard

**Happy Birthday
November
16-30**



November 22
Amanda Overby
Preslee Wood

November 23
Jordan Coulter
James McAdams

November 24
Charlie Stackbein
Jim Harper
Trent Stradley

November 25
Sue Wright
Mike Mazur

November 26
Brooks White

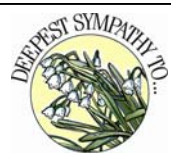
November 27
Tom Elrod
Lauren Higgins

November 29
Greg Stephens

November 30
Ken Jones

Did you know...

- ... **Braxton Riley White** was born on October 20, weighing in at 7lbs. 4oz.? Congratulations to proud parents **Courtney and Brooks White**, big brother **David**, and great grandparents **Doris Ann and Joe White**.
- ...The **Mosaic Sunday School Class** is having an open house on Sunday, Nov. 9 to show off their newly remodeled classroom?
- ... **Hanging of the Greens** will take place on Tuesday, Nov. 25 from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.? **Connie & Gabe Grewell** will cook a light supper and a nursery will be provided. **Call 337-1527 if you can help!**



*Robert and Shirley Abernethy
for the loss of their son
Scott Abernethy*



Saturday, November 15
12:00 p.m.
Youth Building
Please call the church office
to make a lunch reservation.



Rev. Jeanie Williams holds the cake as Spice Of Life celebrates the October birthdays of Len Edgar, Evelyn Bauman, Ruth Searls, and Sara Bennie.



First United Methodist
Church-Odessa
415 N. Lee
Odessa, TX 79761

432-337-1527

email: cultivator@fumcodessa.org

VISIT our new web site!

www.fumcodessa.org

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

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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.

Join Us For Veterans Day 2008

RADICAL HOSPITALITY NEEDED

*Are you looking for a way to
express Radical Hospitality?*

You can help with the reception following the Veterans Day musical program. Help is needed from baking cookies to kitchen helpers on the evening of the program. The cookies can be brought to the church parlor kitchen anytime during the day of November 11.

Contact Karen Stovall at 366-0667
or Mary Jane Malone at 333-4003

A Salute To The Armed Forces

7:00 p.m.
FUMC sanctuary

Veteran's Day
Tuesday, November 11

Invite your friends and neighbors
to be inspired by the patriotic music
sung by the Sanctuary Choir