



Consecration with New Members and Pledges

Extravagant Generosity was the appropriate theme for FUMC-Odesa's observance of Consecration Sunday on Nov. 16, attended by more than 300 persons in the MCM Grande Hotel.

The event blended elements of both the traditional and contemporary services, bringing together in one place those who usually attend these worship experiences separately each Sunday. Many were heard to say, "We should do this more often."

Praise songs led by Jody Wallin with Dan Ferguson on the keyboard, and traditional hymns led by Randy Talley with Shari Santorelli on the keyboard, set the tone for the service.



Rev. Todd Salzwedel of Community UMC Ruidoso with Pastor Terry Tamplen prior to presentation of his Consecration Sunday message.

Highlights included the introduction of 18 new members to the congregation and an inspiring message by guest speaker Rev. Todd Salzwedel, pastor of Community United Methodist Church in Ruidoso, N.M.

The guest speaker linked generosity with discipleship, and discipleship with relationships. "Almost everything boils down to relationships," he said. "Relationships with each other and with God."

The service ended with a procession of givers, bringing their 2009 pledges of support to the church down the aisle to baskets in the front where they were blessed and consecrated.

(New member pictures on page 6)

Veteran's Day Celebrants Fill Sanctuary

Veterans Day 2008 will long be remembered by the community of Odesa as a day when FUMC opened its doors to honor those who have sacrificed for our freedom. Over 300 people, many veterans and their families along with the members of FUMC, attended the concert presented by the Sanctuary Choir on November 11. The success of the night can be attributed to a team effort by many FUMC Members. I cannot name every single member who contributed to the concert, however, I would like to mention a few.

First of all, I want to thank every member of the Sanctuary Choir. There were many long and difficult rehearsals needed to pull this music together. The attitude, work ethic, and dedication of the choir made the

concert a memorable one. Connie Nichols took on the job of Program Coordinator. She did a masterful job and solicited the assistance of Ken Brumelle, Linda Terrell, and Betsy Triplett-Hurt in producing the television commercials, print media, and posters. The reception was facilitated by the Cornerstone Sunday School Class. Not only did they set-up and take down the reception, but they also stayed to clean and secure the building. Thanks to all of you who brought cookies! I want to thank those who made the outside of the building look beautiful with luminarias and the Mosaic Sunday School Class for greeting visitors in the parking lot and guiding them into the sanctuary. Thanks to the ushers

(Continued on page 4)



Church member and Vietnam veteran Ben McAdams presents the wreath honoring fallen military members.

The Sunday before Thanksgiving!



Terry Tamplen

This Sunday I want to spend time in each service allowing you to share your "thanksgivings" to God. Come prepared to give thanks verbally or, if you prefer, send an "I'm thankful to God for _____" to my email (terry@fumcodessa.org), and I will share as many of them as possible.

The sermon for November 23 is "Must Have Been God's Will?" How do we know when something is God's will or not? Does God have a specific person picked out for me

to marry? What about prayers for healing? The person we pray for might get better or worse—which result was God's will? Does God's will have any connection with political results? Let's get into God's word on the 23rd and check it out!

See you in church!
Terry

Growing Together As Authentic Followers Of Jesus Christ



The Mosaic Class welcomes you to their new home. Seated: Christy Lewis, Reagan Whytlaw, Jayme Wilson, Jayme Nelson, Sheena McMillian, Kyrsten Nall, Amanda Overby. Standing: Adrian Blumberg, Scott Wilson, Robyn Stokes, Brandy Blumberg, Kari & Mike Halldorson, Courtney White, Kelby Giesler, Brian Whytlaw, William Nall, Benton Overby, Charlie McMillian, and teacher Nancy Stewart holding Braxton White.

The Mosaic Sunday School Class had a full house during its Open House on Sunday, November 2. The group of young twenty-something-year-olds welcomed everyone to come and see how they had transformed their second-story classroom into a comfortable and inspiring space. Many in the class grew up in our church and have returned "home." Others have moved to Odesa and are beginning their careers. All of the class members have taken an active role in making events at the church a success.

Class member William Nall shares his thoughts with The Cultivator on this active group of disciples.

1. Why are you involved in the Mosaic Class? The Mosaic class has people generally my age, plus a lot of young people with kids the same age as mine. I like that our kids will go to church together also.

2. What is happening in your life today that makes having a Sunday School class important to you? Life in general is happening. Sunday School is important to me in life because I want to raise my kids in a strong Christian home, and I think Sunday School is a big part of that.
3. What is your history with our church? My wife and I joined after trying several different churches together. We'd each grown up in a different denomination and didn't really like the others, so we decided it was important enough for our kids to be in a church that we would find a church together to attend. Terry's preaching and friendliness was a big part of our original attraction to FUMC. Honestly, as a group, we just generally enjoy spending time together. We could find a reason to make a giant meal at the drop of a hat! We all love to cook together.

United Methodist Women Make Christmas Brighter For 110 People In Presidio And Ojinaga



Jean Heggemeier, Mary Lu Shaw, Ellen Trout, Johnnie Williams, Letha Allen, Harriett Berlin and Robbie Nelle Hamilton stuff 110 Christmas stockings. This annual project benefits the Presidio Mission.



Celebrate Christmas With Us This Season

1st Sunday of Advent—November 30
Narnia: Understanding The Supernatural

2nd Sunday of Advent—December 7
The Lion: Discovering Supernatural Strength

3rd Sunday of Advent—December 14
The Witch: Overcoming Supernatural Evil
Sanctuary Choir Musical Christmas Celebration

4th Sunday of Advent—December 21
The Wardrobe: Experiencing the Supernatural in the Ordinary

Based on the popular children's book by C. S. Lewis and the recent movie, *The Chronicles of Narnia*.

Christmas Eve Service
Dec. 23—7:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Services
4:00, 7:00 & 11:00 p.m.

Are You Ready To Be A Foster Angel?

For two years now, our church has provided a brighter Christmas for 25 children in foster care who were under the protection of the Ector County Children's Services Board. Once again the Children's Services Board is seeking our support, this time for 30 children. Sadly, there are more than 200 children in foster care in our community.

A wish list is sent to every foster home and facility that has an Ector County child in Children Protective Services. If you decide to help a child, you may choose between purchasing a new set of clothes and two gifts from the wish list. Or, if you don't have time to shop, you may donate money to the Children's Services Board and they will purchase the items. The average cost of sponsoring a child is \$200, depending



on the child's age and needs. FUMC attender Glena Tharp serves on the E. C. Children's Services Board. If you feel called to help with the project, contact Glena at

528-843. If you want to do your Foster Angel gift shopping early, names for 21 of the 30 children are already available. Please contact Betsy Triplett-Hurt, battu@aol.com or 366-8515, for a child's wish list. Otherwise the names and wish lists will be displayed at the church beginning Sunday, November 30.

Randy Talley: "Program was a team effort"

who met visitors at the door with a friendly hello and handshake. Radical hospitality was happening at FUMC. I want to thank LaDoyce Lambert for writing the narration for the program, and Jon Smith for his masterful delivery of the words. In other words, this was a TEAM EFFORT by the membership of our church.

Finally, thanks to those of you who attended the program. We appreciate your support for the music program of our church.

Hal Fanning was the 87-year-old gentleman who read the poem he had written last July. He is a World War II veteran and has two grandsons in Afghanistan at the present time. His poem was received with a standing ovation. Many of you have asked for a copy of the poem, and with Mr. Fanning's permission, we are printing it here.

Thanks again and God Bless.

—Randy Talley



Members of the combined ROTC programs representing Odessa High School and Permian High School stand at attention prior to Posting the Colors.

Local Veteran Shares Poem "To Be Free"



Hal Fanning

The flag draped casket passing by
Can bring a tear to every eye.
The trumpet sounds as Taps are played
And in the ground a body's laid.
This soldier now has come to rest.
His Battle's o'er. He did his best
To keep us free from war and strife.
He gave his all. He gave his life.
This nation still stands safe and free.
But what we have, he'll never see.

From Shore to shore our voices ring,
"Sweet land of liberty" we sing.
But, were it not for those who've died,
Who fought for freedom, side by side,
We couldn't fly our flag today.
And so, to them with thanks we say,
"Up in the air, on land and sea,
you fought and died that we might be
Forever safe and always free,
Here in this land of liberty."

Some fought and lived and made it through
And here they stand with me and you.
The noise of battle now is gone,
And yet they see, with every dawn,
The blood, the flame, the fallen friend,
To them the war will never end.
Each war is fought to give us peace,
And yet wars never seem to cease.
The best we have still go to war
And some who stay here ask, "What for?"

For flag and country, some will say.
For others, it's the right to pray,
To worship God as he commands,
To have our families close at hand.
Each soldier says, "Oh, can't you see,
This is the way that it must be.
For us to have a peaceful land
We've got to go and lend a hand.
We've got to keep this nation free,
Our precious land of liberty.

We're fighting now another war,
And some are asking, "What's it for?"
Just ask these veterans standing here,
And listen as they shed a tear
And tell of horrors they have seen
And let you know what might have been
Here on our sacred, precious land
If we'd refused to take a stand
To keep the enemy at bay,
We'd not be standing here today.

So, sing a song of liberty,
And raise the flag for all to see.
"One nation, under God," we say,
And as we celebrate today,
We thank our God for this great land
And for his strong and mighty hand.

—Hal Fanning,
July 4, 2007

FUMC Members Visit WWII Memorial in DC

Two members of First United Methodist Church-Odessa recently went on a “trip of a lifetime” to see the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.

James Allen was one of 64 Permian Basin veterans of WWII to make the chartered plane trip on Oct. 18, and Chrystal Fouche was one of several family members on the flight. Expenses of the veterans were paid by donations from a fund-raising effort spearheaded by Shirley Rutledge of Odessa, with the help of members of the VFW and American Legion. Family members, like Chrystal, paid their own way, but in Chrystal's words, “It was worth every penny.”

The pre-Veterans Day trip was organized to honor local “Freedom Fighters,” as the World War II veterans are known, and to give those



Veterans take pictures of the beautiful World War II Memorial.

able to make the trip a chance to see the memorial which was dedicated in 2004. The organizers said the event also recognized the fact that World War II veterans are dying at a rate of more than 1,100 per day.

James said the memorial was “impressive,” especially the Freedom Wall with its huge field of gold stars representing the 400,000 Americans who died in the war. He said the memorial, which sits in the Mall between the Lincoln Memorial and



James Allen stands next to the Texas monument.

the Washington Monument, is ringed by pillars for each state and territory who sent young men to fight.

As impressive as the memorial itself was, James was touched just as much by something that happened while they were touring the site.

Unexpectedly, a group of young students came up to the veterans, shook their hands and thanked them for their service to their country. “That really got to me,” James said.

Chrystal had a similar reaction. “Every American should see it,” she said of the memorial. “Anyone who has any religion, an ounce of patriotism or any feeling at all, will just stand there and cry.”

Chrystal was representing her late husband, Phil, who was wounded in the war and who was an active supporter of the memorial during the 11 long years it took to raise the money and build the memorial.

She had a surprise of her own when she stepped off the bus at the memorial site. Two women from the office of Congressman Mike Conaway were there to meet her and the rest of the group. The congressman, who grew up in Odessa and whose parents were friends of

Chrystal and Phil Fouche, was also among those seeing the vets off on their trip from the Midland airport.

James noted that it was a whirlwind trip, with the chartered plane leaving at 5 a.m. and returning by 10 p.m. that



Golden Stars on the Freedom Wall represent the 400,000 Americans who died in World War II.

same night. In addition to the WWII memorial, the group got a “drive-by” look at the Vietnam and Korean war memorials, the Iwo Jima statue and the Arlington Cemetery.

And when they returned, a welcoming group applauded each veteran as they descended the stairway at the airport.

—LaDoyce Lambert

First UMC Welcomes New Members

Anne Acreman is already participating in the new Stephen Ministry. In addition to her long-time family medical practice, this hometown physician volunteers her time and services on numerous community boards. She is married to Ken Anderson.

Natalie and David Alvarez came as visitors and really enjoyed the pastor and the contemporary worship service. She is a physical therapy assistant at Regency Hospital; David works for the Texas Department of Transportation. David says he came to our church because Jack Lambert invited him. “I was looking for a good pastor I felt comfortable with, and we found a great one in Pastor Terry.” Natalie and David are the parents of Ashley, Amy, Arin, and Josh Dickerson, and Ryan Alvarez, and are the grandparents of Alexis.

Tressa and Rob Mann say they joined because they were looking for a church with a good youth involvement. Tressa is a doctor of audiology; Rob is the bay manager for Premier Parking. Their nephew Justin Eccles transferred his membership, too. Justin attends Nimitz Junior High. He plays the guitar and keyboard and is interested in the worship praise team.

Pamela and Mark Mounts joined because of our youth group and ministry team. They started coming because Julie and Chris Garrett and her brother-in-law invited them. Pam stays busy managing the schedules of their children, Lyndzie, Emily, and John Michael Allbright. Mark is employed by Primerica Financial Services.

Benton Overby started attending because of his wife, Amanda Malone Overby, grew up in this church. Benton is following the Malone family tradition of giving back to the church with his time and talents by



Anne Acreman



The Alvarez Family: (l-r) Josh, Ryan, Natalie, David and Arin. Not pictured are Ashley, Amy, and Alexis



Joe Dee, Gavin, & Ashlee Thompson



Benton, Quentin & Amanda Overby



Mark and Pamela Mounts, Lyndzie, Emily, and John Michael



Rob and Tressa Mann, Justin Eccles

being a leader in the Mosaic Sunday School Class activities. Benton is the branch manager for Enterprise Rent-A-Car. He and Amanda are the proud parents of third-grader Quentin. Joe Dee Thompson married into a long-time and active FUMC –family

when he married Ashlee Correa. Joe Dee is a landscape architect and irrigation designer for A Yard Dog Garden Center. He and Ashlee are the proud parents of three-year-old Gavin.

Did you know...

...**Jaci Brooks, Schuyler Stallcup, Noelle Trotter,** and **Tess Williams** made the High School All-Region Choir?
 ...**Henley Graves** and **Reagan Latimer** made the Junior High/Freshman Region Treble Choir?
 ... **Josh Dickerson, Dan Smith,** and **Arik Vega** made the Junior High/Freshman Region Tenor-Bass Choir?
 ...the 2008 Optimist Youth Appreciation Honorees from our church were: **Reagan Latimer, Erin Scharlach,** and **Courtney Carlson** from Bonham; **Keri Lynn Lucas** from Nimitz; **Karley Kiphart** from OHS; and **Haley Fowler, Tess Williams, Chase Cawthron, Nikki Bunger** and **Merritt Owens** from PHS?
 ...the church sends many important news items by email to our members? Please update your email address by sending a message to either judy@fumcodessa.org or sherry@fumcodessa.org.

Mother's Day Out



Colton



Jordyn



Conner



Steve, Nathan & Matt Hanson
for the loss of
Jackie Hanson

The Walthall family
for the loss of
Ray Walthall

HAPPY BIRTHDAY DECEMBER 1-15

December 1 Shelby Schlueter Ryan Alvarez	December 4 Peggy Hundley Megan Carlson	December 8 Jean Duke Charlie McMillian	December 11 J.T. Morgan Perry Shelton
December 2 Ashley Dickerson	December 5 Jeremy Shaw	December 9 Mary Jane Malone Marvin Smith	December 12 Mark David Owens
December 3 Joe Moss Harriett Berlin Kevin Wilson Dottie Chavez Kyle Weatherby	December 6 Bob Standifer Wesley Haynie	December 10 Jeanne Ann Walthall Jaci Brooks	December 13 Doris Mason
	December 7 Shelby Tucker	December 14 Susan Butler	December 15 Brady Smith



UMW Faith Circle
Bake Sale for Missions

Sunday, November 23

Before and after worship services
Main Building—South Hallway
Fellowship Building



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

**RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED**

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 43
ODESSA, TEXAS
79761

www.fumcodessa.org

Have you taken a look?



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.



www.fumcodessa.org

Sign up today to receive the e-Cultivator. Email your request to either judy@fumcodessa.org or sherry@fumcodessa.org.