



Special Concert To Honor Veterans



Members of the sanctuary choir rehearse songs for the first-ever salute to veterans. The concert is a community outreach and a way to say 'thank you' to those who have served in the military to protect our freedom.

An evening of patriotic music will celebrate Veterans Day 2008 when the First United Methodist Church Sanctuary Choir presents a program entitled "American Heroes –A Salute to the Armed Forces and Military Veterans."

The community-wide event is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 11 in the FUMC sanctuary. The choir will be under the direction of Randy Talley, and the program will be narrated by Jon Smith. Selections will range from signature songs of each branch of the armed forces and "This is My Country" to "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" and "From Sea to Shining Sea," a fantasy based on "America, the Beautiful."

Talley explained that the

Veterans Day program came about because a previous event was canceled by the weather. The FUMC choir had been scheduled to sing during the annual 9/11 ceremony at Freedom Park, but it had to be called off because of rain.

"The choir had put in so many hours preparing for the 9/11 program that we began to think of a way to use the music," Talley said. "I didn't know of any local church doing a Veterans Day celebration," he added, "so this seemed like a perfect opportunity to do something for the community, and especially our veterans. Our veterans have made real sacrifices for our country, so we can't honor them enough."

Talley said the choir is excited

about the upcoming presentation, even though they had to put in many extra hours of practice. "We have even had to put off our preparation for Christmas, but this is something we need to do."

Recalling that church consultant Bill Easum put priority on inviting new people into our church, Talley said, "What better way to do that than to offer the community a way to salute our veterans."

FUMC New Website Launch
October 27
www.fumcodessa.org

Our Friend, Arthur Raj Desperately Needs Our Prayers and Support



Rev. Terry Tamplen
Senior Pastor

Rev. Arthur Raj is a missionary in Bangalore, India whom we have supported prayerfully and financially. Arthur recently wrote regarding the severe persecution of Christians close to him:

"We have been sending you special letters from time to time covering carnage of persecuted Christians in Orissa state. It is spreading to other parts of Orissa and other states in India also. Two of our Missionary staff are from Orissa. We are in fasting and prayer for all the suffering Christians sometime now. We are gathering some of those Christian victims of persecution at TM valley to rehabilitate them. We are under enormous pressure to stand firm against the expected persecution.

We received recently a circulated email message about these ghostly activities in Orissa. It was an eye-witness and first-hand information. Some of the excerpts:

'We have never seen anything like this. In a nearby Catholic orphanage, the mob allowed the kids to leave and locked up a Priest and a computer teacher in house and burned them to death.'

Many believers have been killed and hacked into pieces and left on the road.... even women and children.

More than 5000 Christian families have had their homes burned or destroyed. They have fled into the jungles and are living in great fear waiting for the authorities to bring about peace. But so far, no peace is foreseen.

Many more Christians will die and their houses destroyed. Many more churches will be smashed down. We ask for your prayers. Only the Hand of God can calm this storm.'



Arthur and the Bible College students and staff are praying and working constantly for the victims of the persecution. This is the time we need to stand along with them through prayer and financial support. If God speaks to your heart for our suffering brothers and sisters in Christ in the other parts of the globe, (India), please support this cause by sending any donation to help rehabilitate the suffering of these Christians. Many of them are homeless, helpless and desperate.

I will respond to Arthur's request with prayer and financial support, and I invite you to join me. If you would like to make a financial contribution, make your check to FUMC Odessa and earmark it "India."

Thank you, Terry

L-i-f-e-l-i-n-k-s Membership Class Reconstructed

Based on the recommendation of church consultant Bill Easum to implement a discipleship process which will move our first time guests to fully-engaged disciples of Jesus Christ, we have reworked our **L-i-f-e-l-i-n-k-s** membership classes. We will have three **L-i-f-e-l-i-n-k-s** classes offered at different stages of the discipleship process:



L-i-f-e-l-i-n-k-s 1 will introduce who we are, what we believe, what it means to be a disciple of this community of Christ, and what our discipleship expectations are.

L-i-f-e-l-i-n-k-s 2 will explore how we practice the six marks of discipleship in our daily lives (daily prayer, daily Bible reading, weekly worship, nurturing relationships, serving, and giving). Participants will be given the opportunity to experience these marks in small groups of various kinds.

L-i-f-e-l-i-n-k-s 3 will focus on discovering our spiritual gifts and how to use them to serve at First United Methodist Church and beyond. Participants will be given opportunities to be trained in different areas of service or to further explore their gifts and graces for ministry.

L-i-f-e-l-i-n-k-s 1—Sunday, November 2, 2008
from 3:00-6:00 pm (dinner included) in the Fellowship Hall
Members and guests alike are invited to attend
Please call the church office at 337-1527 to enroll

Empowering Disciples To Make A Difference

The Group Life Conference 2008 hosted by our church on the weekend of October 16-17 had all the comforts of home with the advantages of “big city” speakers and high technology. Dozens of our members were joined by United Methodists from El Paso and Carlsbad, and a couple of Grace Lutherans from Midland, to hear eight hours of insightful, inspiring and intriguing speakers from across the nation, all via satellite. The 40+ people in the fellowship hall were part of a larger audience of several thousands, hundreds in the Chicago-based Willow Creek auditorium from which the simulcast originated.



Margaret Perry
Carlsbad, NM

of any kind. Ask, “What do I want my group to know (Head); to feel (Heart); to do (Hands); to plan (Homework)?”

-After every meeting reflect on what worked; what could be improved; what should be celebrated?

-Redeem technology and use it for God’s purpose. Learn about blogs and “twitter.” If you don’t know about twitter, ask one of our younger church members to explain it to you.

small group within her Grace Lutheran Church in Midland. Even with that history, she said you still learn new ideas from this conference. And, she was grateful to our church for hosting the event so she did not have to travel to Chicago for the conference.

All of the out-of-town visitors commended the team that hosted the event. Everyone was thankful for the parking lot greeters who were able to direct people to the fellowship hall. Once inside, they were favorably impressed with the quality of equipment and the comfort of the surroundings.



Leslie Kirkes & Beckie Adams
Carlsbad, NM

-Expect the unexpected. Jesus was the master of the unexpected.

-Identify and love the brokenness of the people in our church. Listen to the cries of a broken world.

-Stay in touch with what God is doing in your life. Why? So you may comfort others as God has comforted you. Places people go to because of tears: homeless shelters, bars or night clubs, porno shops/topless bars, drug rehab, abortion clinics. Create ministries that drive home drunks from bars; feed homeless; recycle garbage to feed children.

-Make your Sunday School class or small group grow by listening to the cries of a broken world.

-Leaders can’t lead if they don’t grow themselves spiritually.

—Betsy Triplett-Hurt



Small group member Russell Kimble talks to two members from St. Mark’s UMC in El Paso.

Margaret Perry from Carlsbad, New Mexico, came because she is a Sunday School teacher and was seeking new ideas for her group which she considers a small group. Beckie Adams, also from Carlsbad, said she learned lots of practical information on how to get started. Leslie Kirkes and her husband, Justin, are the youth pastors at the Carlsbad church. They were impressed by the caliber of the speakers and the range of topics. She said they could never afford to go to Willow Creek, so this was perfect. Millie Abel is a 25-year veteran of participating/leading a

And what was the good information?

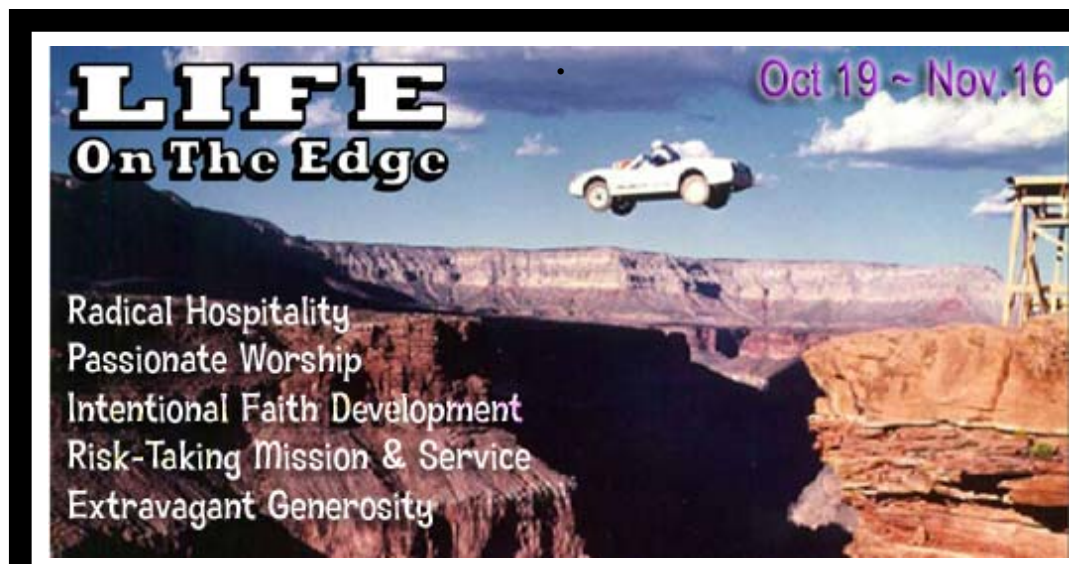
-Look at the reality of your church situation; do not be blinded by the vision statement of what ought to be.

-There need to be all kinds of different churches because there are all kind of different people. Don’t confuse outcome (developing more disciples) with the method (non-traditional means of outreach).

-Own up to failures and fix them; embrace the theology of failure because God can redeem failure.

-Two minutes of thinking about Head, Heart, Hands and Homework can transform meetings

SERMON



SERIES

Oct. 19

LIFE ON THE EDGE KICKOFF!

During the coming weeks, remember to be reading the seven devotions and prayers in *Cultivating Fruitfulness*. We encourage households and friends to read the Scriptures, pray the prayers together, and take the daily challenge.

Oct. 26

PASSIONATE WORSHIP

Passionate Worship means worship that connects people to God, worship that people enter into with expectancy and with the anticipation that God desires to speak to them and connect to them. Whether traditional or contemporary, Passionate Worship is authentic, connecting, and sustaining.

Nov. 2

INTENTIONAL FAITH DEVELOPMENT

The way we purposefully learn, grow, extend ourselves, and mature in faith together. Together we will explore new ways to grow in faith, love, and ministry in all the ages and stages of our lives.

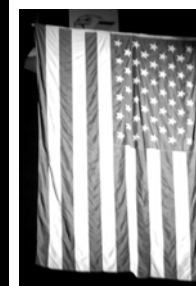
Nov. 9

RISK-TAKING MISSION & SERVICE

Mission and service describe the projects and work we do to make a positive difference in the lives of others, both here and around the world, whether they ever will be members of this church or not. Risk-taking pushes us out of our comfort zone to do new and different things.

Nov. 11

**“American Heroes”
A Salute to the Armed Forces**



**@ 7:00 p.m.
FUMC Sanctuary**

A special tribute presented by our **Sanctuary Choir** to honor those who have protected our country.

Nov. 16

EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY

Generosity means an unselfish willingness to give for the purposes of Christ. But what does it mean for us to give *extravagantly*, going beyond expectations? We’ll find new ways to see the extravagance of God in our lives.

The Missions in Presidio and Ojinaga still have need of the items listed below. Contact the church office at 337-1527 before you bring items to the church.

Beans
Sugar
Rice
Baking powder
Coffee
Tomatoes

Cooking oil
Corn
Flour
Paper goods
Spices
Water

Individually-wrapped packs of mayo, mustard, sugar, salt, pepper, ketchup, salsa

Blankets, pillows
Towels, linens
Laundry soap
Cleaning supplies
Toilet paper
Bath soap, shampoo

Razors
Powdered milk
Paper goods
Dust masks, rubber gloves
First Aid Supplies



Don Dyer & Roberta Bacon were special speakers for the October 9 UMW meeting which honored members of the military.

UMW New Beginnings Circle Honors Our Military At Recent Meeting



Doris Rodolph and Ruth Searls celebrate their 95th birthdays with the United Methodist Women.

Showing Appreciation For Ministry Done Well

They pray for us when we are hurting and celebrate with us when our prayers are answered. They vision, plan, challenge and equip us for our discipleship journey.

They clean and take care of our buildings and answer the phones with a pleasant voice, so that we might be those who don't yet radically welcoming to inspire us to know God. They



passionate worship singing and playing "They" are the men and women of our church staff.

Once again, Staff-Parish Relations Committee member Susie Williams is organizing a week-long series to let them know how much we appreciate their leadership as we do ministry together in this community of faith. Staff Appreciation Week begins October 27 with a luncheon in their honor, hosted by Susie in her home. Special items are planned each day, with Sunday, November 2 set aside as a day for the entire congregation to say "Thank You" with special tokens to our three pastors.

If you want to help Susie with this show of lovingkindness, either through your time or with a donation, please contact her at 362-6274 or at nickwilliams@grandecom.net.

Just Say 'No' To Checks



Honoring Your Financial Pledge Made More Convenient

If you want the convenience and ease of automatic bank draft for your pledge to the church, please let Finance Secretary Thelma Reeves know. She will help you set this up. Your account will be drafted for the amount you specify on the date that you specify. All that you need to do is provide to the church a cancelled check. You can contact Thelma by calling 337-1527 or email, Thelma@fumcodessa.org.

Youth Rock

On Sunday evening, October 12 members of our youth ministry gathered at the church for a Tailgate Party. We enjoyed hamburgers and hotdogs, queso, chips, cookies and soft drinks. We weren't headed to a football game, however, we were headed to the *Sanctus Real* Concert hosted by a local church. *Sanctus Real* is a popular Christian recording group. We also enjoyed the music of *VOD* and

Tenth Avenue North. The speaker for the event challenged students to make a difference in the poverty that affects our world. He specifically talked about the lack of clean water and food in some areas of Africa. It was a great night of food, fun, music, and worship. We had 7 first time youth visitors join us for the evening.

—Rev. Donnie Williams



Top-rated Christian rock band *Sanctus Real* members Mark, Dan and Pete greet youth members Garren Schneider and Shelby Schlueter after the concert on October 12.



Children's Ministry: Making A Difference in the Lives of Children

Preschoolers came together on Sunday, October 12 for an afternoon full of fun! The lesson they learned was that God loves it when we talk to Him. They discovered that another name for talking to God is called prayer and explored the different ways that we can talk to God. Kids thought it was great that God wants us to talk to Him. In Jeremiah 29:13 the Bible tells us that when we pray, God wants us to pray with all of our heart and really talk to him. The children also sang songs, played games, and made prayer mats that can be used when they say their prayers each day. The kids learned a lot and had fun doing it!



Children's Ministry Director Cindy Lewis hands out snacks to preschoolers Sunday afternoon, October 12. Learning, laughing and having fun were included in the lesson that God wants us to talk to Him every day.



Keep your eyes peeled for more great Sunday afternoon events coming soon for kids!

—Cindy Lewis
Children's Ministry Director

Tyi Ainsworth smiles as he get ready to play with his friends.



Ella Stokes (who attends our Mother's Day Out) and her guest Aiden learn that talking to God is called prayer.

Did you know...

... Gov. Rick Perry has reappointed Tammy Hawkins to the 18-member Juvenile Justice Advisory Board? The board oversees the treatment and prevention of juvenile delinquency and administers juvenile justice.

... The FUMC New Website will launch October 27? The new site will be off and running and sharing our vision and mission on the worldwide web. Check us out on the web!!!

www.fumcodessa.org

... Kaitlyn Riley placed 2nd chair in the All Region Harp Auditions?

... Jon Smith's photography exhibit "Rio Grande. Bravo!" will be on exhibit through December at the Hobbs Western Heritage Museum?

LIFE @ Mother's Day Out



Cody



J.J. & Mom



Emily

Memorials

Johnnie and Hugh Williams To The UMCOR Memorial Fund

In Memory of Beatrice Mullaney

Given by Mr. and Mrs. James Allen

To The Memorial Fund In Memory of:

Mae Best Bob Skinner

Given by: Cindy and Phil Fouche

To The Choir Fund In Memory of

Mae Best

Given by

HAPPY BIRTHDAY NOVEMBER 1-15

November 1

Abby Johnson

November 4

Katheryn Howell Dorothy Millsap Mark Agnew Susie Schnaubert

November 5

Vicki Wright

November 6

Jim Brown

November 7

Karley Freeman

November 8

Paul Heard Connor Nall

November 9

Pat Larum Danny Schnaubert Eric Stokes

November 10

Ellen Trout Eleanor Edmondson Terry Cawthron

November 11

Randal Grice Kesslie Gilbert Steve Withrow

November 12

Bo Meek Clark Reed Joe Hansen Sarah Lambert

November 13

Dick Sivals

November 14

Cindy Fouche Brandi Taliaferro

November 15

Betty Norton



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NEW WEB SITE COMING OCT. 27!

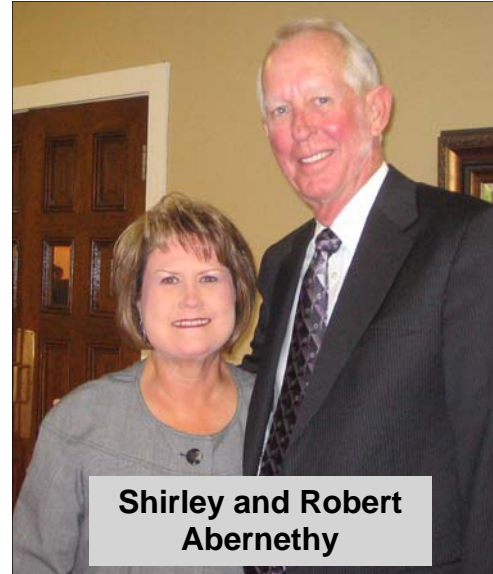
www.fumcodessa.org

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

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.

Welcome New Members



Shirley and Robert Abernethy

Shirley and Robert Abernethy joined our church on Sunday, October 12 during the traditional worship service by transferring their membership from First UMC in Midland.



Hey Kids! Pre-K through 6th Grade Sunday, October 26 4-6 p.m. OOZING WITH Fun!



Wednesday, October 29 Barn B, Ector County Coliseum 6:30 until 9:00 p.m. Great food, fun, pumpkin games, friends and worship Bring your friends! \$5.00 per person at the door. Costume Contest - Win valuable prizes!