

## White Crosses Crafted for Landscape Display

When Charlie Strackbein and Jay Stovall received an email from Linda Terrell that described how residents in a small town in Michigan decided to take a stand on their Christian faith by displaying simple white wooden crosses in their front yards, these two FirstUMC members decided that this would be a worthwhile project for their congregation, and, ultimately, Odessa.

Charlie and Jay's initial goal is to fabricate 150-200 of the 18 inch crosses for distribution through FirstUMC membership. The pine crosses can be driven into the turf or affixed to a wall.

"We think this is a great opportunity for those who wish to make a statement about their Christian faith," said Stovall, who was responsible for designing and building the sanctuary cross.

Strackbein added, "Jay and I can make these at a reasonable cost. We are hoping that FirstUMC members will embrace what we are doing and acquire one of our crosses for a small donation."

Eventually, the two hope to make the crosses available to individuals outside the FirstUMC congregation.

They expect to begin the cross distribution in late September. For more information, contact Jay Stovall, Charlie Strackbein or Linda Terrell.



**Building crosses to stake. Jay Stovall (left), and Charlie Strackbein put the finishing touches on a batch of wooden yard crosses they are building for distribution to First UMC membership.**

## Daycare Licensing, New Director and Finishing Touches

Construction will be finished on time, but the state licensing process is lagging behind. That means that the new five-day child care center at First United Methodist Church-Odessa will be a little late opening its doors.

Cindy Lewis, Director of Children's Ministry at FUMC-Odessa, said after hoping to begin on Sept. 7, the goal now is to open the center on Sept. 20, but it could be sooner. The agent of the Texas Department of Regulatory Services assigned to this project has to inspect the new center before licensing can be completed. "We just have to wait until they get around to us," she said.

In the meantime, construction and renovation of the former nursery and Mother's Day Out space on the first



**Tile replaces carpeting in nursery rooms.**

floor will be "substantially complete" by August 30, according to Trustees Chairman Sam Howell.

In addition to installing all the state-mandated requirements for a daycare center, the construction project

includes an alarm system. "The alarm system is both a fire alarm to comply with state and fire marshal regulations for a daycare center and a fire and burglar alarm system for the entire main building, the Boathouse and Fellowship Hall," Howell explained. He added that the system will be activated by keypad and that it will be preset to turn off specific areas as needed.



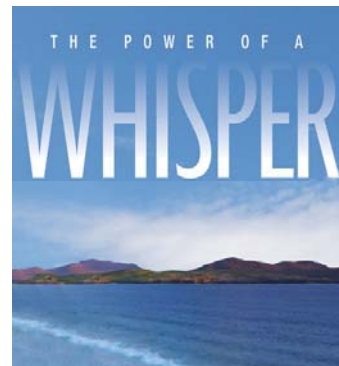
**Kim Garcia  
Daycare Director**

*(Continued on page 4)*



**Terry Tamplen**  
Senior Pastor

## THE POWER OF A WHISPER *LEARN TO HEAR FROM HEAVEN AS YOU NAVIGATE LIFE ON EARTH*



**T**he greatest buzz of the Christ-following life comes from hearing directly from God – sensing his guidance to lean into some situations and steer clear of others, to speak a word one moment and fall silent the next, to adopt bold new practices and ditch the self-destructive habits that only do us harm.

If you crave full-throttle faith, the kind of divinely directed life that God alone can provide, then this sermon series is for you. God still speaks relevant words to his followers, and most likely, a grand adventure with your name on it is on your heavenly Father’s lips. Tune your ear toward heaven, and God will direct your steps, accompany your path and celebrate your faithfulness one day.

**SERMON DATES AND TITLES:**  
 Sunday, September 19 – The Whisper-Led Life  
 Sunday, September 26 – Divine Input for the Day-to-Day  
 Sunday, October 3 – Practice, Practice, Practice  
 Sunday, October 10 – Wide Open for Good

***What will I learn?***

In this powerful yet practical series you will learn how to discern the “voice” of God from the other voices that vie for your attention, how to invite God’s input into your daily routine, how to “practice” God’s presence and how to allow heaven-sent input to direct your life toward making a kingdom-oriented difference in this world.

## Explore Your Methodist Roots in England —Summer 2011

**F**or several years Randy Talley, Director of Traditional Worship, and his two brothers, Billy and Barry, have been talking about combining their Methodist church choirs for an overseas tour. Each of the choir directors had enjoyed many tours with their school choirs but kept thinking about what a great experience it would be to combine their church choirs for a tour of England. They got excited thinking about a tour designed not only to perform in some of the great churches of England, but

FirstUMC-Odessa, asked if he could add his Ft. Worth Methodist church choir to the mix. Each church will responsible for

Along with choir members and their families, we are inviting other church members to be a part of this trip. Highlights of the trip will include

Join the  
**Texas Methodist Chorale**  
 (FUMC Sanctuary Choir + 3  
 other Texas UMC choirs)  
 as we discover our Methodist heritage on a  
**Tour of England**  
**June 14-21, 2011**  
**You do not have to be a musician to go!**  
 Call Sherry at 337-1527 for more information.

also to explore our Methodist heritage. In June of this year the brothers made the decision to make their dream a reality. Hearing about their plans for the trip, Robert Stovall, who was an interim music director at one time at

taking 40-50 people (a bus load). The singers from the four churches will combine to give several concerts, but ***you do not have to be a musician to go on the trip!***

Windsor Castle, Stratford-upon-Avon (Shakespeare’s birthplace), Oxford University, Warwick Castle, and Coventry Cathedral. We will visit Bristol to see the oldest Methodist Chapel in the world (originally built in 1739) and the cradle of the early Methodist movement. It was used by John Wesley and the early Methodists as a meeting and preaching place and the center for helping and educating the needy members of the community. We’ll visit the Roman spa and Cathedral in Bath, Stonehenge, and

*(continued on page 3)*

# School Supplies Answer Prayers Extravagant Generosity

Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, we provided school supplies for around 60 elementary school children and 4 junior high and high school youth this year. Some of the school supplies were distributed through our clothes closet and food pantry. Others were given to the children living at Mission Messiah. The remaining school boxes were taken to Cavazos Elementary to be given to students in need there. Wayne Squiers, principal at Cavazos, said that a source who has provided them with school supplies in the past was

unable to help this year due to budget cuts. The school was not sure how they were going to handle that shortage, so receiving the boxes of supplies from our church was a real blessing for them. We have also received several notes from Mission Messiah thanking us for helping their children. Who knew a simple box of school supplies could be an answer to prayer! Thanks so much for sharing your generosity with our community.

—Kris Riley, Outreach Ministry Director

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Thank you so much for providing for our school supplies. They were very much in need. Ya'll don't know how much that helped me and my kids! What a blessing. Thank ya'll!

Sincerely, Helen, Mason, and Hayli

Thank you so much for your generosity with the school supplies. I had been praying for some help and God answered me.

Bless you, Jeree & Levi

Hi. My name is Summer and I have a 7 year old. I wanted to personally thank you from the bottom of my heart for you donating the school supplies. It was such a blessing. I appreciate you and thank you so very much. May God bless you. With love and thanks, Summer

Thank you for all your support with the school supplies you provided. It makes back to school so much easier on the parents when they don't have to worry about the expense of school supplies. Thank you for the blessing and may God be with you and all your children in this banner school year! Kristi

I just wanna thank you so much for the school supplies you provided for my son, Jayden. It was a big help for me and I am forever thankful! May God bless you!

Sincerely, Aubrey Viva Jesus!

Continued from page two:

St. Paul's Cathedral (where many famous Britons are buried). We will have the opportunity to see many of the sites of London—Piccadilly Circus, Parliament, Big Ben, Trafalgar Square, Hyde Park, Buckingham Palace and more. The tour price also includes a West End (Broadway type) show. We are hoping to sing at the Sunday morning service in the Great Hall of the Methodist Central Hall. While in

London, we'll visit the Wesley House and Chapel, as well as the Museum of Methodism and John Wesley's tomb. A day of free time near the end of the tour will give you the opportunity to check out the British Museum, Westminster Abbey, the Changing of the Guard, or other places you might have missed.

The cost for the trip will be \$2,476 for double occupancy or \$2,966 for single occupancy. *A deposit of \$300 will be*

*due on September 14.* This is an outstanding value for a wonderful trip, which will include Blue Badge English guides who will stay with our group at all times. We hope you'll consider this trip of a lifetime.

**Don't delay—places will fill up quickly**—contact Sherry today at 337-1527 or [sherry@fumcodessa.org](mailto:sherry@fumcodessa.org) for more information.



**(Left)** From inside the new nursery/preschool area, Building Trustee committee member Russell Kimble points to the new sliding glass door that will lead to the outside of the main building. **(Right)** Russell shows the door as if you were entering it from what was the alley. In addition to security and ease of access for the daycare center families during the week, the new entry makes it more convenient for parents attending the contemporary worship service on Sundays to access the church nursery from the Fellowship Hall.

Continued from page one:

While waiting on the state license, other preparations have proceeded on schedule. The daycare center has a staff of 17 full and part time employees, as well as a new director. The director is **Kimberly Garcia**, who has worked at several daycare centers. Although she already has a license, the state requires that she be re-licensed before joining a new center. So, for the first three months, Cindy Lewis will carry the title of director, but Kimberly will perform the duties.

The center, which will be approved for up to 81 children ages 0 to 5, is expected to be at or near capacity upon opening. "We get calls every day," Cindy said. Up to now, interest in the daycare center has been generated only by word of mouth. Many of the children expected to attend have been coming to the Mother's Day Out program, and those parents "have been our biggest boosters," she said.

There is already a waiting list for babies through two-year-olds. The sign-ups for the older children are slower, mostly

because of the pre-kindergarten programs in the public schools. Cindy said that if the slots for older children don't fill up, they may expand the number of spots for younger tots. And she expects to work toward accommodating four and five-year-olds for the half-day they are not in the public school program.

The daycare center staff won't just be sitting around waiting for the state license. They will keep the Mother's Day Out program going until the center opens, there is training to be done, and they must move everything back downstairs. They have been using the upstairs children's Sunday School space during construction.

Cindy said the children ages 2 to 5 will be exposed to a creative curriculum learning program, but even the babies will be taught Bible stories. "We will treat this as a ministry, not just a daycare center."

—*LaDoyce Lambert*



**New alarm system will keep all of us safe no matter which building we are in.**



**New handicap entry to new sliding glass doors in old alley between buildings.**

## Stephen Ministry: Christian Caregiving For Hurting People

Sunday, Aug. 22, during the traditional worship service we commissioned our two newest Stephen Leaders. Wilma Tune is a retired United Methodist pastor, and Anne Acreman, MD is a local physician. They are also both Stephen Ministers, and each one brings a lot of personal gifts and talents to the leadership area of our Stephen Ministry program. Jody Wallin has been the only Stephen Leader since Pastor Jeanie Williams was transferred to Abilene, and he says that having Anne and Wilma trained as Stephen Leaders will be a great help to him in managing the program and will insure the long-term success of our Stephen Ministry program. We are already receiving benefits from their new leadership roles.



Anne Acreman, Jody Wallin, and Wilma Tune, called by God to serve as Stephen Leaders.

We currently have 14 Stephen Ministers at FUMC. Each one has been trained to provide one-to-one

Christian care to people in our congregation and community who are experiencing grief, loneliness, divorce, hospitalization, disability, job loss and many other life difficulties.

FUMC's Stephen Ministers have already spent approximately 1,616 man hours of training and supervision since the program was established in April of 2008. This does not count the time each Stephen Minister has spent with his or her care receiver, which easily would add over 400 more man hours to their service. We are helping with many needs within our congregation—people dealing with grief, aging, divorce, hospitalization, loneliness, and several other difficulties—and we have helped with two long-distance Stephen Minister appointments.

—Jody Wallin  
Minister of Congregational Care  
Stephen Leader

### STEPHEN MINISTRY



#### New Stephen Minister Training To Begin in October

We have a wonderful Stephen Ministry program here at FUMC, but we need to be training more Stephen Ministers in this life-changing ministry. ***Stephen Ministry is needed more now than ever before.***

As more people experience greater stress and turmoil in life, our congregation has the unique opportunity to reach out with Christ's care. Stephen Ministry empowers our church to meet people's emotional and spiritual needs in an extremely effective way – through well-trained caregivers called Stephen Ministers.

We will be starting a new class beginning on October 7. The class will meet on Thursday evenings from 6:00 – 8:30 for twenty weeks. This provides 50 hours of training that is required to become a Stephen Minister.

If God is calling you to serve him in this capacity, please contact Jody Wallin or Pastor Terry at 337-1527 or one of the other

Stephen Leaders, Wilma Tune or Anne Acreman. We would love to visit with you about this fantastic opportunity to serve our congregation and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Our motto is: "God is the cure-giver; we are the care-givers."

—Jody Wallin  
Minister of Congregational Care  
Stephen Leader  
[jody@fumcodessa.org](mailto:jody@fumcodessa.org)

Sharing Love

Risk-Taking  
Mission & Service

## More Opportunities To Serve And To Learn

Risk-Taking  
Mission & Service



On Sunday, September 12, Sarah Mazur and Kris Riley will conduct a training for our Kids Hope USA mentors. It will be held in the Youth Building following the Contemporary Service. We will provide a meal for the mentors and then follow with a three hour intensive training to prepare our members to begin the mentoring process. So far we have 11 mentors and 2 substitutes. We are so excited to be piloting this program in Odessa. It is a wonderful opportunity to impact our community in a positive way. Please keep the Kids Hope USA program, our mentors, and the children at Cavazos Elementary School in your prayers throughout the coming school year.

—Kris Riley, Outreach Ministry Director

We are very excited to once again be offering the Bible Study, *DISCIPLE: Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study*. *DISCIPLE* assumes that the Bible is the key to renewal in the church. It recognizes the human-divine nature of the Bible: the actual texts of Scripture were written by human beings like ourselves in their cultural settings, under the divine inspiration of God.

*DISCIPLE* gives equal time to the Old and New Testament, emphasizing the wholeness of the Bible as the revelation of God. *DISCIPLE* aims at transformation, not just information. It calls on persons to submit themselves to examination by Scripture, to put themselves under the power of God's Word, and to be transformed by God's Word.

This study requires reading large portions of

**DISCIPLE**  
BECOMING DISCIPLES  
THROUGH BIBLE STUDY

Scripture each week and is based on careful study and preparation. During the course of thirty-four weeks, groups will move through the biblical stories of Creation to the New Jerusalem.

I hope you will join me for this study. **Currently, I plan on teaching the course on Monday evenings, 6:00-8:30. However, if we have enough who are interested, we could also have a study that would meet on Wednesday mornings from 9:00-11:30.** Join us in this great journey through the Bible. Please call 337-1527 to tell me which class time you would prefer.

—Jody Wallin, Minister of Congregational Care

Intentional Faith  
Development

## Spice Of Life Invites You To Join The Fun



Bill Heggemeier  
celebrates his birthday  
at Spice of Life.

Our *Spice Of Life* lunch group met again on Aug. 19 for a time of fellowship and another great meal. Russell Kimbell and Earl Shaw prepared and cooked the meal that consisted of pork loin, rice, mixed vegetables, salad and rolls. Johnnie Williams prepared a beautiful birthday cake, and this month Bill Heggemeier was our only "birthday boy." Jody Wallin gave a program on his recent continuing education trip to the Renovare Covenant Retreat in San Diego last month.

If you aren't coming to the *Spice of Life* group, we invite you to come. We are in our mid-50's and up, and we have a great time once a month on the third Thursday, 11:30 to 1:00. Call the office and make your reservation next month!

### Monday Morning Manly Meal

(a gathering of the men of the church)

**Beginning Monday, Sept. 13  
6:30 - 7:30 a.m.  
Fellowship Hall**

Breakfast — biscuits, gravy, eggs,  
bacon, sausage, coffee.

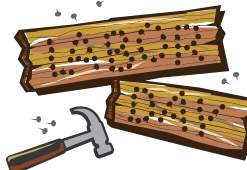
**Start your work week off right  
with a great inter-generational  
fellowship time for all men.**

Sign up with Judy  
in the church office,  
337-1527


# Important News If You Have A Key To The Church



The new Fire and Alarm System has been activated. Burglar alarms in all buildings will be armed between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. If you need to enter the building during these hours, you will need to notify the church office ahead of time. There are many church keys that have been given out over time, so we are asking for your cooperation in not opening the building doors during these hours. Our church will be charged a large fee for false alarms.



The church offices will be closed  
Monday, September 6 for Labor Day.




**Men's Flag Football  
Sign Up by  
September 15**

Contact Christy Lewis  
at 337-1527 or  
ChristyLewis@fumcodessa.org.

Missing




**Disk I**  
Beth Moore's Bible Study  
**DANIEL**  
If you borrowed this CD,  
please return it to the church  
office as soon as possible.



*It's a Boy*


Congratulations to Brooks & Courtney White for the birth of their son, **Grayson Wayne White**. Grayson weighed 8 lbs and was 20 inches long. Proud brothers are David II and Braxton, and proud great grandparents are Doris Ann and Joe White.

In honor of:  
**Pat & Glen Larum**  
Given by  
8:00 a.m. Class




SHARED MINISTRIES

*Patio Fund*




In honor of  
**Sam Howell**  
**Russell Kimble**  
Given by  
Jane Reid



*Sympathy to...*

...Christina Martinez for the loss of her mother  
**Mary Mendoza**  
...friends of **Nancy Jones**  
...family and friends of  
**Woodrow Leach**

<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"><i>In Loving Memory</i></p>  <p><u>Benevolence Fund</u> In memory of <b>Don Farris</b> Given by 8:00 Sunday School Class</p>	<p><u>Memorial Fund</u> In memory of <b>Don Farris</b> Given by: 8:00 Sunday School Class Baker, Toni &amp; Buckets Hallford Hazel Suggs Patty &amp; Ken Terrell Johnnie Williams</p>	<p><u>Sanctuary Renovation</u> In memory of <b>Don Farris</b> Given by Jonell &amp; Lonnie Sims</p> <p>In memory of <b>Mildred McKeel</b> Given by: Steve, Elaine, Melanie, Tim, Madelyn, Eric &amp; Megan Hansen Kim &amp; David Smith</p>	<p><u>Children's Clothes Closet</u> In memory of <b>Estee &amp; Marvin Smith</b> Given by Judy &amp; Mike Withrow</p> <p><u>Patio Fund</u> In memory of <b>James Allen</b> Given by Jane Reid</p>
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[www.fumcodessa.org](http://www.fumcodessa.org)

Enjoy The Cultivator On-line

## 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 Fond Farewell To Glen And Pat Larum

The 8:00 A.M. Sunday School Class hosted a good-bye dinner for long-time teacher Glen Larum on Thursday, August 26. Glen and his wife Pat have moved to Austin after Glen retired from the Texas Department of Transportation. To thank Glen for his years of inspirational teaching, class member Lynn Correa presented the couple with



a plaque for their home featuring the Fruit of the Spirit scripture, Galatians 5:22. Glen's service to this church has been long and meaningful—serving on the team that began *The Cultivator*, serving as lay reader, teacher, SPRC member and in many other quiet deeds.