

Imagine More Prayers And Plans Made Tangible



Children don hard hats and dig in to create history on Sunday at the first of two groundbreaking ceremonies.

No matter the connection to our church, the historic groundbreaking ceremonies on Sunday, August 28 were exciting. Children from the traditional worship service and from the contemporary worship service were excited to play in the dirt. The parents of those children were excited to see that a real playground would soon be in place. Building Trustees, Church Council members, and *Imagine More* team members were excited to see how their combined months of planning, working, praying, fine tuning concepts, and a little more praying, were finally ‘no more talk, but action.’ For *Imagine More* contributors, it was another step in the journey of faith, showing gratitude for God’s blessings. For Pastor Terry Tamplen the excitement was because “Imagine No Malaria” got us started. And now this second *Imagine More* project is something tangible that declares the first fruit of so many prayers and plans to reach our mission field in Odessa and make disciples of Jesus Christ.

Architect and project manager Larry Johnson says the creation of the plaza between the main sanctuary

building and the Rodman Fellowship Hall will take about three months. When everything is finished, church members and visitors will enjoy a well-equipped playground that has canopies over the playground equipment. The current asphalt between the two buildings will be removed and artificial turf will be placed in the playground area, with the remaining space having a surface of stamped, colored concrete.

The Plaza will be enclosed by a masonry fence along 5th Street, with aluminum panel gates at the alley and another gate creating the new exterior entry to the Fellowship Hall. The playground will be enclosed with a 4-foot-tall aluminum fence. A covered walkway will unite the two buildings, with the entry into the Fellowship Hall being relocated to inside the Plaza. The new eastside entry is one feature of creating a more welcoming and spacious lobby in the Fellowship Hall. Even though Larry is a loyal and longtime member of 1st Baptist Church, as a Christian he says the project will be a great asset to our facilities and anticipates that this will improve the outreach ministry of the daycare

Staff Member Excited To Launch New Ministry

Risk-Taking
Mission & Service

On Aug 10-12, I had the opportunity to go to Lake Forrest, CA and attend workshops to learn how to start a *Celebrate Recovery* program here at FUMC. The workshops were part of the Celebrate Recovery Summit 2011 meeting which was held at Saddleback, Rick Warren's



church's outreach to our own people and to the people of Odessa-Midland would be to start a *Celebrate Recovery*

program at First United Methodist Church, Odessa. We have the opportunity to be the first church in the city of Odessa to offer this program. From my experience at the Summit, I am convinced that

this program is not only needed but is vitally necessary to help the many people who are struggling with their own hurts, hang-ups and habits.

Celebrate Recovery is a life-changing recovery program that is Christ-centered. It encourages fellowship and celebrates God's healing power in our lives as we work our way along the road to recovery. People are changed as they share their experiences, strengths, and hopes with one another. They become willing to accept God's grace and forgiveness in solving life's problems.

By working through the principles, participants grow spiritually and are freed from their hurts, hang-ups and habits. This freedom creates peace, serenity, joy and, most importantly, a stronger personal relationship with others and with our personal, loving and forgiving Higher Power, Jesus Christ.

My desire is that one of the next steps in our

I will be putting together a team in order to accomplish this goal. We will study the *Celebrate Recovery* material and work together to develop this great program within our church. I need musicians, facilitators, teachers and organizers. Please, if you are interested in helping launch a program such as this in our church, contact me at 337-1527 or by email at jody@fumcodessa.org to let me know of your interest. As soon as we have a core group of committed people, I will begin our study, and we will start this much-needed extension of our current ministries. Through *Celebrate Recovery* and *Stephen Ministry*, we will truly be helping hurting people discover the loving power of Jesus Christ. For more information, go to www.celebraterecovery.com to see more about

Celebration of Holy Baptism on August 28

Passionate
Worship

Grayson Wayne White, held by Rev. Donnie Williams, was baptized on Sunday, August 28. Grayson's baptism was celebrated by his parents Courtney and Brooks White and big brothers David and Braxton, along with a large group of family members, including great grandparents Doris Ann and Joe White and godparents Kelby Davis and Nathan Bieber.



Holy Baptism

Fidelis Class Leaves Legacy Of Love And Faith

The Fidelis Sunday School Class, perhaps the longest continuously serving organization within First United Methodist Church-Odessa, has disbanded – but its legacy lives on.

First organized in October 1937, the class once had a membership of around 100, but it slowly dwindled in number as members died or moved away. When Lucy McAdams died earlier this year, that left one surviving member of the class, Mildred Bridwell, who decided to disburse the remaining assets of the class and turn the classroom back to the church.

The Fidelis Class had long been a supporter of mission fields across the world as well as civic and church projects, mostly involving youth, on the local and state levels. As the class got smaller, however, resources to fund its multiple charities began to dry up.

The class was at the point of having to abandon the mission and youth work it had been doing for more than 65 years when, in 2003, it received an unexpected but much-needed gift. Longtime member Betsy Ames Stewart, a retired school teacher, left the class \$48,770.43 in her will.



Mildred Bridwell

Mildred Bridwell remembers that “the class might have folded back then” if it had not been for this extravagant gift. It allowed the class to continue its mission and charitable projects.

The class still had some of this money left when only two members remained. “Lucy McAdams and I talked about what to do with it before she died,” Mildred said. Recently, Mildred directed the following disbursement of the Fidelis Class assets totaling \$9,709.00:

Rev. Arthur Raj-Mission India, \$2,500; UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief), \$2,000; Methodist Children's Home, \$1,000; Meals on Wheels, \$500; West Texas Food Bank, \$500; Shared Ministries for FUMC-Odessa, \$2,000; remodel of Fidelis classroom for use as new library/resource room, \$1,209.

These parting gifts were reflective of the storied past of this class, which was originally called the Young Matrons and Business Girls Society. Later, the name was changed



1981 Caption for article in Odessa American: Fidelis Class involved in Community Projects. Each month, members of the Fidelis class meet to discuss various ways in which they can be involved in a number of projects throughout the community. Shown assembling a mail-out for a local organization are (L-R) Estelle Dick, Daisy Sutton, Margaret Peer, Racy Goddard and Cecile Lee.

to Fidelis, which is Latin for “faithful.” In keeping with their name, the class motto became “Always Faithful.” The class song was “More Like the Master,” class flower was the rose and class colors were red and white.

The group was founded on Oct. 17, 1937, by Mrs. C. R. Roberts who was also the first teacher. Early on, the class became supporters of teachers and ministers in the Philippines. Mildred Bridwell remembers helping Laura Frances Murphy, one of the

class leaders in mission work, pack and mail used Sunday School books and other Christian literature to the Philippines.

For almost its entire history, the class sponsored a child at Methodist Children’s Home in Waco. It helped sponsor the first native woman to be ordained into ministry of the Methodist Church in Zaire. It supported a Filipino deaconess and a young South Korean minister.

Always interested in the education of young people for Christian leadership at home and abroad, the class supported the Navajo Methodist Mission School in New Mexico. It helped organize the El Divino Methodist Kindergarten in Odessa.

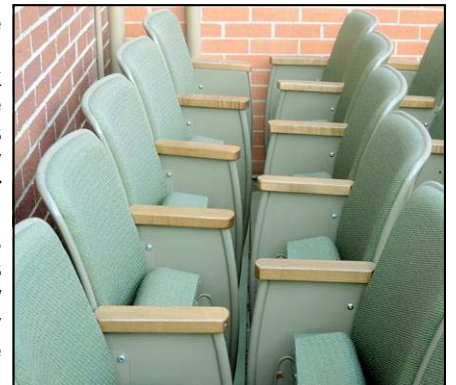
True to its name, the Fidelis Class was faithful to the end. As for the lone surviving member, Mildred Bridwell, at age 85, is moving on, and will continue to serve the church, this time as a member of the Wesley Class, where she has several friends.

—LaDoyce Lambert

Risk-Taking
Mission & Service

Intentional Faith
Development

Churches are the ultimate recyclers! Jon Smith took this picture of the theater-style seats that had originally been in the choir loft, then were used by the Fidelis Class for many years and are now being enjoyed by the youth in the Boat House.

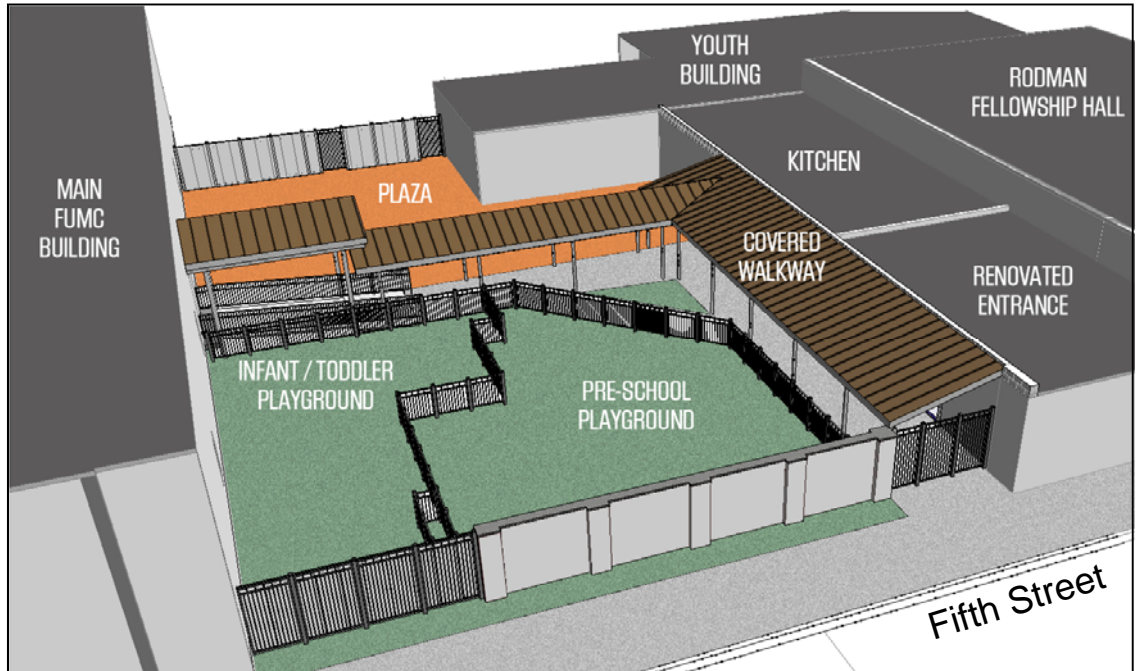


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program, plus it will provide a Sunday morning space for FUMC children. This will help express ‘relevance’ to young families with children and will be something the church can be proud to have. By rolling in all the expenses associated with the project—playground equipment, guaranteed costs by Hawkins Construction, architect/project management fees for Johnson-Seefeldt Architects, and a

\$15,000 contingency fund—Johnson says the final amount for the project is \$498,600. To date, 80% of the church membership has pledged \$1.6 million dollars of the anticipated \$1.8 million needed for all projects. Also to date, \$700,000 has been received, with the remaining pledges to come in over the next three years.

Imagine More campaign chair Cindy Fowler expressed deep gratitude to church members who have supported the campaign. She says all contributions are vital to the success of the multi-phased project, not because of the money involved, but because participation shows that the heart of the donor is connected to the mission of our church.



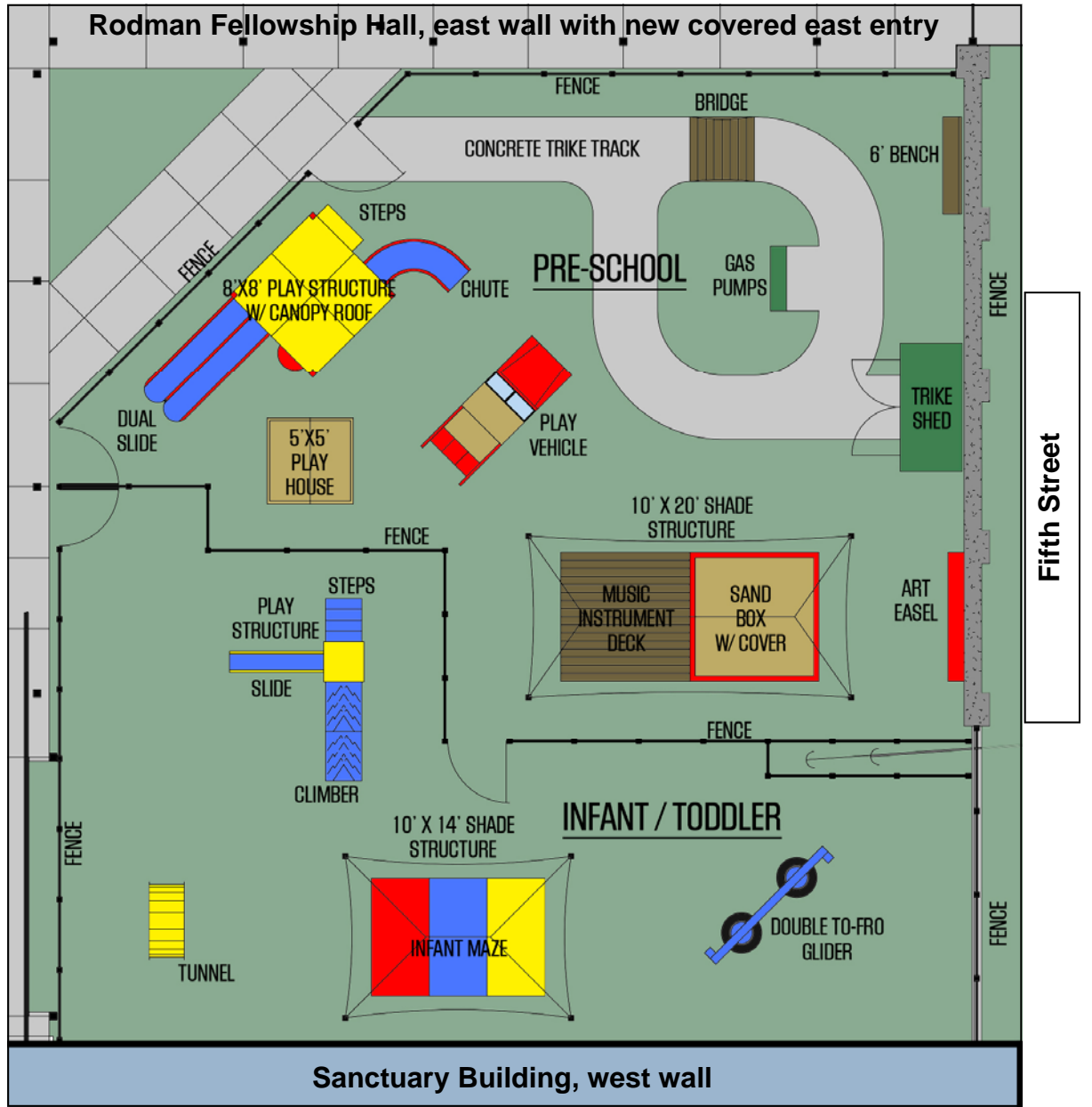
Pastor Terry says the new plaza makes a statement about our church: “It says we care about the people we provide ministry for; it is a statement that our standard is excellence for programming and facilities; therefore it not only helps us attract new people through word of mouth, but also to retain those people once they are beneficiaries.”

—Betsy Triplett-Hurt

Radical Hospitality



imagine
•MORE
**Playground
Details**



Construction will begin mid-September. It is anticipated the Plaza will be finished mid-December.



Example of playground equipment

Chase Gilbert looks forward to a glass of the best-ever lemonade served up by Cameron and Aliyah Curry and their mother, Tanda. Donations from the children's lemonade stands netted another \$560 to the *Imagine More* Campaign.



Invite Your Neighbors To Join You For Exciting Parenting Class

Parenting Without Losing Your Mind



Sept 30 6:30-8:30 pm
 How to Parent *Your Teen*
 Without Losing Your Mind!

Oct. 1 9:30-11:30 am
 How to Parent *Your Kids*
 Without Losing Your Mind!

\$10 per person
 Register at www.fumcodessa.org
 or call the church, 337-1527.

Opportunities For Service



FUMC Children's Ministry is in search of people interested in drama and storytelling. Actors and storytellers will have the opportunity to serve on Sundays during the 10:00 Sunday School hour to tell the Bible story to elementary-aged children. If you enjoy being in front of people, especially kids, give Cindy Lewis a call at 337-1527 or email her at CindyLewis@fumcodessa.org.

 ★ **Sharing Love** ★
 ★ **Needed:** Cookies for a Reception to be held during the Sunday School hour on September 11 to honor Odessa's First Responders. ★
 ★ Please contact Kris Riley at 337-1527 or KrisRiley@fumcodessa.org. ★

Fifteen church members went to Cavazos Elementary on August 21. We were allowed to go into the school with the supervision of Assistant Principal Sandy Arneson. She was so excited to have us there and joined us as we prayed. We split into 3 teams who each took a wing of the school. We laid hands on every classroom door and prayed for the teacher and students who would be working there. We also prayed over administrators and their offices, support staff and their work spaces, the playground, gym, library, and cafeteria and all the staff and children who will be in those areas.



Volunteers at Cavazos were also covered in prayer. Before leaving, we gathered in the library to circle up and pray for the health, safety and success of every family that is connected to Cavazos. The principal, Wayne Squiers, was thrilled that our church would offer this support on behalf of Cavazos. It was another way for us to continue to partner with them to encourage the success of the students who attend there, because these children are the future of our community. We will be blessed as we bless others.
 —Kris Riley, Outreach Director

Sharing Love

Please consider becoming a *Kids Hope USA* mentor for a child at Cavazos Elementary. Contact Kris Riley at 337-1527 or KrisRiley@fumcodessa.org for an application.



September 1
Betty Kay King
Tom Snoddy
Jody Wallin
Andrew Marshall

September 2
Traci Coursey

September 3
Doug Shelton
Judy Puga

September 4
Hannah Johnson

September 5
Denton Rea

September 6
Kelli Hunton
Kim Tucker

September 7
Claire Osborn
Kallan Grewell

September 8
Buddy Hawkins
Phil Szenasi
Diana Browning

September 9
Rita Dupree
Don Hembree
John Mark Weaver

September 10
Paula Ahders
Marta Johnson

September 11
David Nelson

September 12
Betty Jo Aves
Virginia McLemore
Sally Allen
Jon Smith
Jayson Hart
Reagan Whytlaw

September 16
Mike Parker

September 17
Jocelyn Mosman
Janie Howell
Camille Rex
Emily Furst
Schuyler Stallcup

September 18
Jo Forrest
Valerie Birdwell
Sarah Baza

September 19
Nelda Abney
Sam Howell

September 20
Charles White
David Forsyth
Allyson Lucas

September 21
Rhonda Ferguson

September 22
Gwendolyn Oats
William Stewart
Mike Withrow
Jim Carlson
Leah Cicio
Courtney Storm
Jordan Lee
Ian Ainsworth

September 23
Kay Whitefield
Betsy Triplett-Hurt
Shonna Estep
Matt Withrow

September 24
Judy Means

September 25
Guy Birdwell
Ronnie Freeman
Lee Wardlow

September 26
David Alvarez
Jonathan
Carpenter

September 27
Glenda Adams
Justin Hackleman
Sam Smith
Saydigrace Wood

September 28
Mike Ogilvy
Travis Riley
Madison Estep
Tji Ainsworth

September 29
Roxan Jones
Carol Baker
Kristina White
Ash'lynn Frost

September 30
Louise Latham
Dale Holloway
Lukas Williams
Lanie Guerrero



With deepest sympathy to...

...Taylor and Anthony Vickery for the loss of their grandfather, **Robert Villanueva**.

Memorials and Honoraria

Memorial Fund
In memory of
Audrey Leever
Given by
Frances Casstevens

Children's Clothes Closet
In memory of
R. A. Coleman
Given by
Mrs. R. A. Coleman

In memory of
Dorcus Gatlin
Given by
Mr. and Mrs. Don L. Wright

In memory of
Dorcus Gatlin
Given by
K.L. and Dona Ketron

In honor of
Faith Circle Members
Given by
K. L. and Dona Ketron

Extravagant
Generosity

A simple and convenient way to give

This fall, consider signing up for electronic giving. **First United Methodist Church** relies on the financial support of the congregation, and electronic giving offers an easy way to give on a recurring basis. Please contact Mary Blain, Finance Manager, at 337-1527 for details, or visit www.fumcodessa.org and locate the **online giving** button in the top right corner of the home page to link to the electronic giving page.

Church Office will
be closed on
Monday, Sept.5 for



Disciple Bible Studies to start up soon!



This fall, we are excited to be offering two Disciple Bible Study classes. Beginning Monday evening, September 19, 6:30 – 9 p.m., Dr. Ed Williamson and his wife Mary Elaine will be teaching a **Disciple I Bible Study Class**. The Disciple 1 Bible Study is a 34-week course that starts at the beginning of the Bible and works through all of the main books for both the Old and New Testaments. The study will encompass biblical stories from Creation, to the Exodus, to the birth and resurrection of Jesus, through the writings of Paul, and ends with the New Jerusalem.

It is a wonderful study of the entire Bible. This study is sure to grow anyone in their overall biblical knowledge and in their personal discipleship to Jesus.

Beginning Thursday evening, September 22, from 6:30 – 9 p.m., Jody Wallin will be teaching a **Disciple II Bible Study Class**. This is a 32-week study of the books of Genesis, Exodus, Luke and Acts (8 lessons on each book). This study claims the transforming power of scripture while teaching Bible study skills that take participants deeper into scripture. The study approaches all experiences of life as opportunities for faithful witness and service.

If you would like to join either Bible study or want more information on the studies, please contact Jody Wallin or the front office at 337-1527 or jody@fumcodessa.org. We will be glad to sign you up for a class or give you additional information!

Intentional Faith
Development



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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.

*Special Services
of Remembrance
and Hope*

9:00—Sanctuary
11:00—Fellowship Hall

10:00—Reception—Parlor
Honoring First Responders

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2011