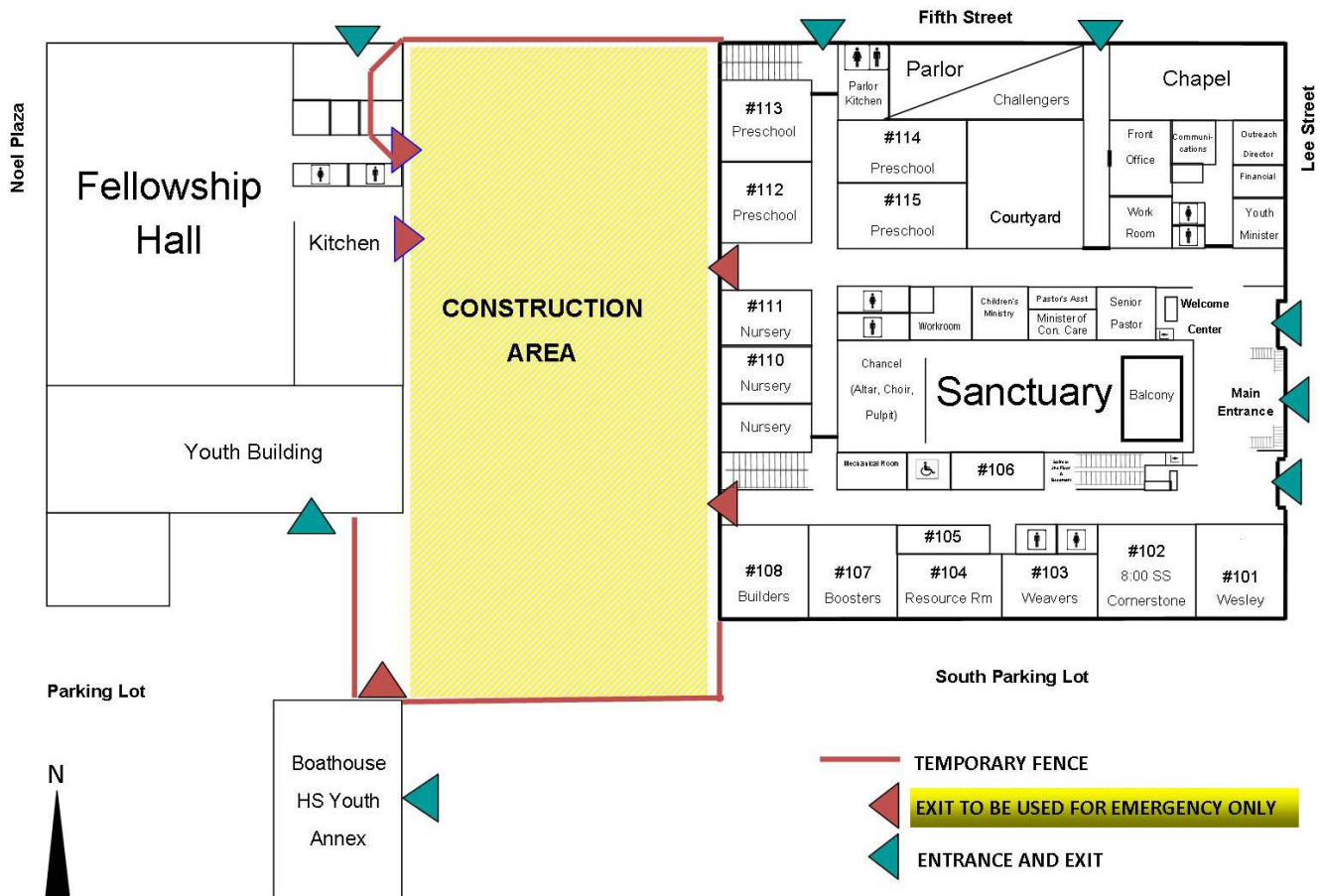


Construction Causes Changes In Getting In And Out Of Church Buildings



According to Project I Building Committee Chair Jay Stovall, “safety of our congregation comes first.” To keep everyone safe, access to the construction area will not be allowed. That means the area between the Fellowship Hall, Boathouse, and alley entrance into the main building will be blocked off now until the new playground and plaza is finished in mid-December.

Access to the Boathouse will be temporarily relocated to the east side door. The east side doors to the kitchen and Fellowship Hall will be available for emergency exit only.

The best, safest, fastest way to get into the main building is from Lee Street or Fifth Street. Entrance

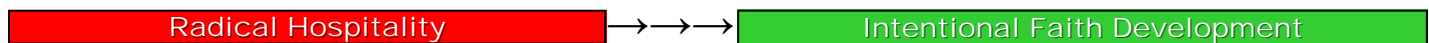
into the Fellowship Hall will be through the Youth Annex or 5th Street.

Once construction begins for enlarging the entrance area into the Rodman Fellowship Hall, the 11:00 Contemporary Worship Service will move into the sanctuary for the duration of the work.

Jay acknowledges that “all this will be inconvenient, but we will work with the staff and congregation to make this as painless as possible.”

As the Project Bldg. Committee Chair, Jay meets each Monday at 2:30 with the architect/project manager Larry Johnson, construction contractor Tommy Hawkins, Hawkins Construction project manager Earl Shaw, and architect Will Duncan.

OUR ASSIMILATION PROCESS: *GUESTS TO FULLY-ENGAGED MEMBERS*



Coffee with the Pastor! It's 90-plus degrees out—too hot for coffee! But, this cup of coffee is more about spiritual journeys, and it's just one more step to assimilating people at FUMC. "Coffee with the Pastor" gives guests an opportunity to have a more personal contact with the pastor in a relaxed setting, where he can express that he cares about them, is interested in their story, and wants their time here at FUMC to be meaningful.

Assimilation is our process at FUMC that is used to encourage first-time guests to continue coming back until they see and understand God's power, accept Jesus as their Savior and commit to the local church through membership. FUMC is God's church, and His heart for the people of our city is much larger than ours. Our responsibility is to follow His lead! He will use each one of us to grow the church His way—and the key is relationships! One of our core values here at FUMC is that the journey is made in community, and it is our responsibility to serve as "guides" for our guests by providing encouragement and opportunities essential to their continued journey.

The plan for *assimilation* is a clearly outlined path that will show a person what the spiritual journey at FUMC will look like and what they can expect. The plan will be generated in three phases: (1) *Communicate* the process to the congregation; (2) *Assimilate* new guests and regular attenders to Connection Points (areas of service/volunteering, group life, Sunday School and ministry); and (3) *Equip* members for discipleship, mentoring and servant leadership.

FUMC ODESSA ASSIMILATION PLAN

GUESTS	REGULAR ATTENDERS	MEMBERS
1 st Follow Up	CONNECTION POINT <i>Service Opportunity-Small Group-Classes</i>	Ongoing Discipleship Training
2 nd Follow Up	2x Year Call/Note once connected	Equipping for Leadership
Coffee with Pastor	ACTIVATE <i>Service Opportunity-Small Group-Classes</i>	Training as Mentors

What can the congregation do?

God has given us the responsibility to be hospitable and has given us the perfect example of how to go about it—through Jesus. We can show Him our gratitude by treating newcomers with the grace, understanding and hospitality that are reflective of His own.

What first steps can I take to show *Radical Hospitality* to guests?

GREET: welcome with a smile—introduce yourself.

TREAT: with a spirit of helpfulness—instead of pointing the way, *take* guests to where they need to go (worship space, restrooms, classrooms, children's areas, etc.).

SEAT: show them to an empty seat and introduce them to people sitting nearby.

Mother Teresa said, "If I look at the mass, I will never act. If I look at the one, I will." I encourage you to look at the one...the one guest who walks through FUMC...your door...your small group...your Sunday School class...your outreach event...your ministry...and then look at the next one...and the next one.

What's Next?

Follow God's lead:

INVITE guests to jump in and join you on the journey at FUMC--through a personal invitation to "coffee with you," a Sunday School Class, a Small Group, or a Bible Study. Invite them to sit with you in worship or to join you as you serve and minister here at FUMC and beyond.

Jesus says, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me." (Matthew 25:35)

"Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:40)

We, too, were once strangers, residing outside of the community where we now find such rich resources of grace, hope, friendship, and service. We belong to the Body of Christ because of someone else's hospitality. Someone invited us, encouraged us, received us, and helped us feel welcome. By someone's love, we were engrafted into the Body of Christ. And now, as members of the Body of Christ, we want to share this **LIFE—to love our neighbors, and invite them to join us as we follow Christ, who empowers us to make a difference!**

Karin Carlson



Passionate Worship



At left, worshippers celebrating September's Communion Sunday did so from a table teeming with loaves of bread, fresh grapes, candles and the opportunity to serve each other. The Praise Team is pictured practicing behind the bountiful table set for the contemporary service. If you look closely, you'll see Hagan Hart riding on his father Jayson's shoulders as the group prepares for worship. The members of this team play a vital part in leading people in passionate worship each Sunday at the 11:00 Contemporary service.

Thomas Ainsworth is joyful during the fundraiser picnic and concert for him and his family, August 28 at The Willows. The Challengers Sunday School Class raised more than \$10,000 to help the family after Thomas's debilitating injuries from an auto accident. Wayne Johnson had the winning ticket for a flat-screen TV, which he and his wife Lee Ann immediately donated to the Ainsworth family.

Extravagant Generosity



Photo from Arleene Loyd via her cellphone

The picture above right shows some of the many First Responders honored at both services on the Sunday of Remembrance & Hope on 9/11. Inspirational music, message, and a time of lighting candles in honor and remembrance made the services especially poignant and meaningful. First Responders were also honored that morning with a reception held in the Parlor .



October 31, 2011
11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Chapel

Just Born



Thomas Davis Sheen
August 31, 2011
7 lbs. 10 oz.
Proud parents are Stefani and Tommy Sheen
Proud big sister is Sydney Laing

Brynnley Mae Sims
September 19, 2011
6 lbs. 12 oz.
Proud parents are Kat and Brent Sims
Proud grandparents are Tammy and Randall Brown and Nancy and Gary Sims

Glow!

FALL FEST 2011

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30

6:00-8:00 p.m.

Games, Prizes, Candy and more!

Kids—invite your friends
and come join the fun!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Contact Cindy Lewis - 337-1527



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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.

Who will you invite to join you?

Parenting Without Losing Your Mind

*Saving Your Sanity
One Tantrum
at a Time!*

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.

CURRENCY CONTROL:
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college edition

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Sundays @ 2:00 in the Chapel — October 2–November 27
Cost is only \$10
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