

## Onward To 2017 With Prayers, Praise And Thanksgiving



Vicki and Terry Tamplen are surrounded by the Staff-Parish Relations Committee after Terry announced his retirement. The SPRC requests your prayers for the beloved couple, our church, and the selection process for our next pastor.

**A letter announcing Pastor Terry's retirement was mailed to our congregation on December 6, 2016. Here is an edited version of the letter.**

Dear Friends,

On Sunday, December 4, in the presence of our District Superintendent, Rev. Eddie Rivera, I made the announcement to our Staff-Parish Relations Committee and Church Council that I am retiring from pastoral ministry in the United Methodist Church after 32 years of service.

This decision was made with much prayer and consideration from both a personal and a professional point of view. It was also made in conversation and discernment with our Bishop, Rev. Earl Bledsoe and our District Superintendent, Rev. Eddie Rivera. Be assured, that both of these leaders are fully committed to a discernment process that will provide FUMC Odessa with the best possible pastoral leader for the future!

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee is working to create a profile that will be used to match the best pastoral leader with the needs of the church. Your Staff-Parish Relations Committee, led by Cindy Fowler, is an outstanding, thoughtful, and professional group and will continue representing the church well in this process. I have included their names at the end of this letter, so that you may pray for them personally as they serve in this capacity.

My last Sunday in the pulpit will be Sunday, April 30, 2017, after which I will use my vacation time to make the transition to Crowell, Texas and more

specifically to the farm which was my first home.

This will also allow time for the church to prepare the parsonage for a new family and for the congregation to catch its collective breath before welcoming the new pastor. The Staff-Parish Relations Committee will be working to provide pastoral coverage during the interim weeks between my departure and the new pastor's first Sunday, which will be July 2, 2017.

As of May 1, 2017, our relationship as pastor and congregation will change substantially. I know that you will do your absolute best to welcome your new pastoral leader and help him or her in the process of beginning a new season of ministry together.

I fully believe that God is at work in the midst of the changes here and that this church's best days are still ahead. I am already praying every day for the success of my successor and for you in the midst of this transition. We know that with God's help, everyone will be further strengthened for the common work we engage in for God's Kingdom. In Christ,

*Rev. Terry Tamplen, Lead Pastor*

Staff-Parish Relations Committee Members

Cindy Fowler, Chair; Jo Forrest, Connie Grewell, Tammy Hawkins, Larry Johnson, Gary Leathers, William Stewart, Craig Van Amburgh, and Cathy Young.

Being a member of our church is, among other things, being in servant ministry and leadership. According to the United Methodist Church Book of Discipline, church members are selected as Lay Leaders to serve on committees. These committees work with the church staff. Here are our servant leaders for 2017.

### 2017 LAY LEADERSHIP

**CHURCH COUNCIL:** Barbara Browning, Chair;  
Lay Leader Betsy Triplett-Hurt; Leaders Julie Garrett, Kay Bramley, Brent Sims, Larry Hackleman, Larry Melton, Mike Forrest, Jack Wood, Connie Nichols, and Reagan Whytlaw.



**BUILDING TRUSTEES:** Scott Coulter, Chas Weatherby, Brett Emerson, Dan Ferguson, Brad Watts, Colby Brazile, Gabe Grewell, Dick Sivalls, Danny Pool, and Gary Sims.

**STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE:** Cindy Fowler, Chair; William Stewart, Cathy Young, Gary Leathers, Jo Forrest, Tammy Hawkins, Connie Grewell, Larry Johnson, and Craig Van Amburgh.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:** David Nelson, Chair; Judy Means, Nancy Sims, Jim Carlson, Mark Mounts, Dan Brazelton, Judy Hayes, Buddy McDonald, Jim Brown, and Glenda Adams.

**LAY LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE:** Robert Claiborne, Marcy Weatherby, and Julie Brown.

**PARSONAGE COMMITTEE:** Melody Gilbert, Chair; Susie Williams, and Jonnie Hackleman.

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE DELEGATES:** Karin Carlson, Jody Wallin, and Connie Grewell.

**Echo Student Ministry**  
 Check out all of the fun & fellowship at  
 Echo Student Ministry FaceBook,  
 TheBoathouse.Grace

Jan 4 ECHO Youth Night  
     Fruit Of The Spirit — Patience  
 Jan 8 Sex talk in Midland,  
 Jan 12 Christian Rodeo night.  
 Jan 15 Confirmation studies begin  
 Jan 18 ECHO Youth Night  
     Fruit Of The Spirit — Kindness and Goodness  
 Jan 22 Confirmation lesson 2  
 Jan 25 Echo Youth Night  
     Fruit Of The Spirit — Faithfulness  
 Jan 28 Wild Game Dinner—youth helpers  
 Jan 29 Confirmation lesson 3  
 Feb 1 ECHO youth night care package  
 Feb 4-6 RUSH Winter Retreat & Super Bowl Party  
 Feb 12 Confirmation lesson 3  
 Feb 15 ECHO youth night  
     Fruit Of The Spirit — Gentleness  
 Feb 19 Confirmation lesson 4  
 Feb 22 ECHO youth night  
     Fruit Of The Spirit — Self Control  
 Feb 26 Confirmation lesson 5  
 March 1 Ash Wed Service & Youth Hangout

## Children's Ministry Parent's Night Out

February 17, 2017

6:00- 8:30 pm

RSVP

\$5 per child

[april@fumcodessa.org](mailto:april@fumcodessa.org)





## Children and Youth Lead The Way On 3rd Sunday of Advent



**FoundationKids** and **Echo Student Ministry** are pictured in the various joyful activities which made December 11 very special. FoundationKids sang in the Traditional and Fellowship worship services. Echo Students filled the roles of greeters, ushers, acolytes, lay reader, and lighted the Advent Candles.



Many of the youth in Echo Student Ministry headed to Parks Retirement Village on December 21 to spread Christmas cheer to many of our members who reside there. The top photo shows a smiling Letha Allen on the left after the students serenaded them. Dorothy and Walyn Gibson are surrounded by the students. Walyn truly appreciated the bedside Christmas Carols. A recent accident has kept him homebound for the holidays.



## Christmas Traditions At FUMC-Odessa 2016



**Foster Angels:** Congregation members, filled the Christmas wishes of 50 children in foster home care. Team members Janice Wilson and Beth Brinker, along with Beau Wright sort gifts from Traditional worship service. Fellowship worshippers, Roz and Rusty Shinn help organize the gifts from those attending the 11:00 a.m. worship service.



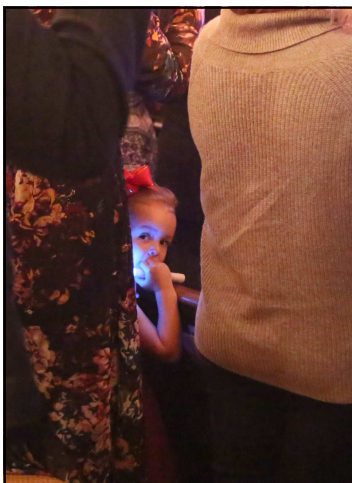
**Lighting the Advent Candles**  
Worshippers of the Traditional and Fellowship services upheld the tradition of lighting candles to focus on the messages of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. Pictured L-R: Ken and Peggy Dean, LaDoyce and Gloria Lambert, the Wilson family of Jayme, Scott, Noah, and Natalie.



Christmas Eve: the glowing and joy filled sanctuary is pictured as more than 300 worshippers celebrated the birth of the Christ child. Special music each week provided by the sanctuary choir, variety of singers and musicians enriched the Advent season.



## Christmas Is All About Families



### Christmas Morning: Worship And Serving

With Christmas Day 2016 falling on Sunday, the downtown congregation was encouraged to celebrate the day with two options: join Pastor Karin Carlson by attending worship at Mackey Chapel –United Methodist Church or joining the Stallcup family in preparing and serving a hot breakfast for the hungry gathered in Noel Plaza. Pastor Karin is shown presiding over the lighting of the Advent candles by children at Mackey Chapel.

Tammy Stallcup reports a hearty breakfast was served to about a dozen people. The family expresses many thanks to everyone who helped prepare the food and to those who contributed coats, blankets and toiletry items which were also given to those in need on Christmas morning.



## Spice Of Life



December birthday celebrants, Carole Millsap and Joe Moss, pictured here with Congregation Care Pastor Jody Wallin.



Spice of Life last met on Thursday, December 15. Russell Kimble, Debra and Steve Meador once again prepared a wonderful, fresh home-made Christmas dinner complete with beautiful decorations compliments of Marsha Melton. Thank you all so very much. We are truly blessed. Marlene Moss made 24 door prizes that rounded out the Christmas celebration! Wow! Thank you, Marlene, for all the love and work you put into our door prizes.

The program was given by Jody Wallin, a short story about "The Best Christmas Ever." The story centered on giving to others who have less... as a true Christmas gift experience. True joy can come from helping others in need while sacrificing one's self.

Spice of Life welcomes all senior adults and we hope you will join us January 19. You will enjoy the food and fellowship. We always meet on the third Thursday of each month at 11:30 a.m.– 1:00 p.m. Blessings to you all,

*Jody Wallin, Congregational Care Pastor*

## Welcome New Members



Allison and Mathew Santiago transferred their membership to FUMC on December 11, 2016. They are both teachers in the ECISD School District.



## Donations Needed for Love Packs

Love Packs are put together by the Builders Sunday School class and handed out to the homeless community. Love Packs contain one day's worth of non-perishable snacks, a bottle of water, as well as some small hygiene items.

Donations are needed of individually packaged items such as:

**Cookie snack packs**

**Vienna sausages- small cans**

**Peanuts – packs**

**Raisins – small boxes**

**Hand wipes – individual**

**Peanut butter crackers**

**Trail mix – packs**

**Apple sauce – individual**

**Cheese crackers – packs**

**Small sized water bottles|**

You can bring these items any weekday to the church office and bring them on Sunday at 9 a.m. or 11 a.m. This is a great way to make a positive impact on the community around us. Thank you for your help!

We exist for LIFE...To Love others, INVITE them to join us as we Follow Christ...



*Memorials and Honoraria December 2016*

In Memory of  
**David Weyant**

Given by  
The Pennsylvania Groves  
(Donna, Linda, Dwayne,  
Sonya, and Brook)

In Memory of  
**Doris Rodolph**

To the Choir and Organ Fund  
Given by  
Mary Jane & Gary Malone

In Honor of  
**Sue & Buddy McDonald**

To the Food Pantry  
Given by  
Jane & Art Scharlach

In Honor of  
**2016 Church Council**

Given by  
Barbara & Rick Browning

In Honor of  
**Tammy & Tommy Hawkins  
Julie & Jim Brown**

**Robbie & Dan Brazelton  
Barbara & Rick Browning  
Sheri & Bob Murray**

To the Children's Clothes  
Closet

Given by  
Rene & Tommy Pipes

In Honor of

**Nancy & William Stewart  
Tammy & Tommy Hawkins**

**Rene & Tommy Pipes  
Robbie & Dan Brazelton  
Sheri & Bob Murray  
Julie & Jim Brown**

Given by  
Barbara & Rick Browning



With deepest sympathy to  
**Janet and Amy Weyant**  
for the passing of their father,  
**Rev. David Weyant.**



**January 28 6:30**  
**FUMC Fellowship Center**  
**217 W 5th Street**  
**RSVP 432-337-1527**  
**Sign up to Volunteer**

*New Testament*

**DISCIPLE**  
**FAST TRACK**

A GREAT WAY TO LEARN THE BIBLE

**Beginning January 11**  
**Wednesdays**

**9:30am Room 102      6pm Room 204**

**Sign Up 432.337.1527**

[www.fumcodessa.org](http://www.fumcodessa.org)



Scan this QRC (Quick Response Code) with your smart phone to link to the online giving page on our website. Use it to make contributions, donations, or to pay for registrations.

...who Empowers us to make a difference in our church, our community and our world.



**RETURN**  
**SERVICE**  
**REQUESTED**

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ODESSA, TEXAS  
79761

## Bring A Friend This Sunday

8:00 AM	<b>Adult Bible Class</b>
9:00 AM	<b>Traditional Worship</b> —Sanctuary
10:00 AM	<b>Sunday School, all ages</b>
10:16 AM	<b>The Bridge Worship,</b> —at LBJ Elementary 6401 Amber Dr.
11:00 AM	<b>Fellowship Worship</b> —Fellowship Center

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 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.

### ***First United Methodist Church-Odessa Mission Statement***

***We exist for **LIFE**...***

*To **L**ove others, **I**nvide them to join us as we **F**ollow Christ, who **E**mpowers us to make a difference.*

## God's Blessings And Generous Hearts Provide 14th Year Of Fulfilling Shared Ministries

Despite the downturn in the local economy, our congregation continued to use financial contributions to our church as an expression of living our mission statement: **Love others, Invite them to join us as we Follow Christ who Empowers us to make a difference.**

For the fourteenth year, we fulfilled the operating/ministry budget of the Church, which also means that we were able to pay 100% of the "Shared Ministries" portion of our budget, \$83,662.19. "Shared Ministries" represents about 10% of our budget that goes out to support the ministries and missions of the United Methodist Church

within our district, conference and even around the world.

Once again, we were able to designate our Christmas Eve offering to support ministries outside our church walls. This year our Christmas Eve offering totaled \$28,035.60. That means Holly Stallcup with Mended Women ministry, and the three missionaries affiliated with FUMC Odessa – Arthur and Jay Raj in India, Rick and Janie Burkhalter of Timothy International, and Brandon and Christine Hembree in China will each receive \$7,0008.90.

Praise God from whom all blessing flow for the tremendous difference our gifts will make in the lives of others!

[www.fumcodessa.org](http://www.fumcodessa.org)  
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