

Calendar of Events

Wednesday, January 9

6:30 a.m. Women's Prayer Group-Kathi Lee's
 6:00 p.m. Kids Clubs Leaders Meeting
 6:00-8:00 Youth & Parents Meal & Meeting
 7:15-8:30 Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday, January 11

11:30 Noon Bible Study

Saturday, January 12

11:00-4:00 Called Session of Annual Conf.
 FUMC, Lubbock

11:30 a.m. Single Together Covered Dish Lunch
 Room 222

Sunday, January 13

8:30 a.m. Worship Service-Sanctuary

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:45 a.m. Worship Services

Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall

12:15 p.m. UMW Luncheon-Parlor

3:00-4:30 Bible Study-Room 222

4:00 p.m. Banner Ministry Team-Rm 223

6:00-8:00 Youth Bible Study-Basement

Monday, January 14

5:30 p.m. Staff/Parish Relations Committee

5:30 p.m. Palo Duro Village Bible Study

6:30 p.m. Grief Supprt Team Meeting-Rm 105

6:30 p.m. Visitation

6:30 p.m. Couples Bible Study-Room 222

Tuesday, January 15

6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Group

9:00 a.m. Skywest Ministry

6:30 p.m. Knitting Ministry

Wednesday, January 16

6:30 a.m. Women's Prayer Group

10:00 a.m. Nursing Home Ministry

10:45 a.m. Retirement Village Ministry

3:30-5:30 3rd, 5th & 6th Grade Bible Studies

5:45-6:15 Fellowship Meal-Fellowship Hall

6:15-7:30 Kid's Clubs & Club 56-2nd Floor

6:15-7:30 Youth Activities-Basement

6:15-7:30 Adult Bible Studies

7:15-8:30 Chancel Choir Rehearsal

UMW News

Wednesday, January 16

6:15 p.m. General Meeting-Room 125

Thursday, January 17

9:30 a.m. Irene Elder Circle-
 Jackie Blair's home

Record of Attendance

January 6, 2008

8:30 a.m.	Worship Service	104
9:30 a.m.	Sunday School	279
10:45 a.m.	Sanctuary Service	232
10:45 a.m.	Fellowship Hall Service	45
	Total in Worship	381

"New" Adult Sunday School
 Class meets in Room 227
 (upstairs in East wing)



Concerns For This WEEK

Health Concerns: Stanna Nelson, Dorothy Wright, Peggy Chandler, Greg Stockstill's dad, Trinity Stinnett

In Christian Sympathy: Perry Graham and his family on the death of his mother, Geoff Hall and

his family on the death of his father, Brenda Parker and her family on the death of her mother, Mike Porter and his family on the death of his dad, Minnie Grabbe on the death of her daughter

Other concerns/needs: Regina Biffle as she prepares for her mission trip to Costa Rica

Joys For This WEEK

Birthdays: Janet Ingham and John Dyer

Anniversaries: Brent and Amy Newton

Other Joys: The youth who painted a house over the Christmas vacation, friends visiting, the birth of Kingston Marr to Kelli and Coby Marr (Sharon Tillman is his grandmother)

Ongoing Prayer Concerns

Jarrett Johnston, Oressa Delaney, J. L. Pipes, Justin Richardson, Anne Huble, Fakar, Brynn McPherson, Kelli Tillman-Marr, Richard and Noreen Bales, Sam White, Danny Knoll, Jim Davis (Nancy Biffle's brother), Libby Ford, Jean Waugh

Additional Intercessory Prayers

President Bush and our country's leaders, Costa Rica Team, Backyard Missions, War-torn Countries - Trey Burrus, Carson Gerber and Jason Holloway in Iraq

Our Guests on January 6, 2008

Jill Balmer, Tennessee	Abby Ullrich
David & Penny Carr	Amanda Tyson
Mary Whitworth	Josh Robbins

FUMC Women's Retreat
BE STILL MY SOUL:
 An Invitation to Simplicity

Feb. 1 & 2, 2008

Ceta Glen Methodist Camp

\$50 per person (optional \$5 for linens)
 Leaders: Nancy Biffle & Rhonni Pletcher

We invite you to come into winter's quiet as we explore the discipline of simplicity and how it can help us draw near to God.

Registration cards now available.

For more information call the church: 655-2851

Christmas 2007

by Myron Dees

Christmas is a special time

For us within the year.

We celebrate the Christ child's birth

With family far and near.

We decorate our homes and church

Send cards with special greeting,

Exchange our gifts with family

And plan the dinner's seating.

But all of this is minor...

Just adds to all the flurry,

And surely causes all our lives

To be consumed with hurry.

We rush around and fret and stew

'Bout things that are quite small,

We act as though our very life

Revolves around the mall.

When really all we need to do

Is keep our focus clear

On what is really central

About the Christian year.

The birth of Christ the Savior

That's what it's all about,

That God would send His son to us

Should give us cause to shout!

So celebrate in many ways

Enjoy the entire season,

But never let it slip your mind

That there's a special reason.

To stop and kneel and say a prayer

About all the worldly needs,

We have to show our real concern

For all man's evil deeds.

Please, God, step into this mess

We've created on your earth,

It's only through your love for us

That we can have a worth.

So let's give him the credit

For all we have and are,

And try our best to follow Him

Like wise men did the star!

To lead us to a better life

By making Christ our goal,

Then all we think and do and say

Will help to make us whole.

We know God's got a purpose

For each of us down here,

So let us make this Christmas

The start of a great year!



The News from FUMC, Canyon

Building God's Kingdom One Word At A Time

January 9, 2008

First United Methodist Church
 1818 4th Avenue
 Canyon, Texas 79015
 Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
 U.S. Postage Paid
 Canyon, Texas
 Permit No. 130

THE NEWS-The official newsletter of the
 First United Methodist Church, Canyon

First United Methodist Church Canyon, Texas 655-2851
 e-mail: fumc@firstchurchcanyon.com web-site: firstchurchcanyon.com

United Methodist Women's Sunday

January 13, 2008

**8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Sanctuary
 worship services
 Linda Elms, Northwest Texas
 Conference UMW President,
 preaching**

Linda Elms is a Diaconal Minister serving St. Paul United Methodist Church, Amarillo as Minister of Program. She works with all areas of church life encouraging the congregation to continually be in the process of strengthening and extending the Kingdom of God. In addition to her work at St. Paul and UMW, Linda was elected first alternate lay delegate to General Conference from the Northwest Texas Conference and will be a delegate to the Jurisdiction meeting.

Linda will have a wonderful message using Jesus' Great Commission as her scripture. Plan to be here this Sunday.

Applications for
 Kitchen Coordinator
 position are now
 available.

Church Staff

Senior Pastor.....Rev. John McClean
 Associate Pastor.....Rev. Donna Johnston
 Worship Leader.....Michael Littau
 Diaconal Minister.....Francie Pittman
 Director Youth Ministries.....Scott Lee
 Director Children's Ministries.....Lee Ann Love
 Church Secretary.....Cindy Burrus
 Children's Administrative Assistant...Megan Walker
 Assistant Secretary.....Shirley Leach
 Financial Secretary.....Lisa Dietz
 Financial Assistant.....Christi Ybarra
 Youth Adm Assistant.....Rhonni Pletcher
 Music Director.....George Biffle
 Organist.....Margaret Skinner
 Church Librarian.....Michell Killingsworth
 Custodian.....Bill Fetter
 IHH Child Development Director..Brenda Shepherd

Wednesday Night Classes for Adults

"A New You.....in 2008"

This spring we will offer a series of classes that will help you keep your New Year's resolutions. There will be short-term classes which will help you with your diet, finances, prayer life, Bible reading, etc. Watch the bulletin and The News for exact dates for each class.

Support for the San Miguel Family

As you know, Elizabeth San Miguel died over the Christmas holidays leaving two sons - Caleb and Drake. Please consider helping Elizabeth's mother covering the expenses of the funeral and daycare for Drake while she is at work until she can decide what arrangements will be best for him.

Just make your checks to the church and write "San Miguel Fund" in the memo section. If you have questions, please contact Donna or Bonnie Burner.

First United Methodist Church
 Building God's Kingdom One Life At A Time
 Service Times
 8:30 a.m. in Sanctuary
 10:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary
 10:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall
 Sunday School is at 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Preaching Schedule

Traditional Services in Sanctuary
 Linda Elms

Contemporary Service in Fellowship Hall
 Rev. Donna Johnston





How Focused is Your Vision?

First United Methodist Church has finished the highly transitional year of 2007 in fine style, and I want to say "Thank You" to our fine staff and wonderful lay leadership for bringing the church gracefully through a transition year which could test the nerves of even the strongest person.

Now, as I look at the New Year just now unfolding before us, I sense within myself a great anticipation and optimism for all that is ahead. We enter 2008 having developed a staff

covenant and staff mission statement. I asked our staff to spend some time together working in retreat settings during the past summer and fall in the endeavor to craft and refine these statements. Below are the completed and adopted staff mission and covenant statements:

Mission Statement for Staff of First United Methodist Church:

"We, the staff of First United Methodist Church, seek to be servant leaders by inviting, nurturing, modeling, equipping and empowering others to go forth as disciples of Jesus Christ."

Covenant for Staff of First United Methodist Church:

"We, the staff of First United Methodist Church, covenant together to live in right relationship with God by loving Him, one another, and ourselves as Christ loves us."

Of course, statements such as these are only as effective as is our prayerful commitment to learn them, remember them, and live them out. Simple as they seem, the concepts within them have been thoroughly and prayerfully developed, discussed, and adopted by our staff. We end each of our staff meetings by reciting them together, to keep them before us, and I will find other additional ways to help them become a bone-deep part of who we are as a church staff.

I share these with you to encourage you to think and pray about YOUR vision for the ministry of First United Methodist Church. I want you to think and pray about the answer to this question: What will it look like when First UMC accomplishes what God wants done for the sake of the Kingdom of God?

I am anxious to have you share your answer to this question with me.

As an early step in the process, our 3-D Team and our church will host Rev. Tom Nagle, senior pastor of Saint Mark's UMC in El Paso. Tom will be with us Saturday through Sunday morning, February 16-17. Two events during this time will be of special interest to our congregation: 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, Tom will conduct a "Developing Dynamic Disciples" training session in the fellowship hall, and then he will preach at both worship services in the Sanctuary on Sunday morning.

For the Saturday event, we would like as broad participation from our church as is possible, and so we would like multiple persons present to represent every group in our church: Sunday school classes, UMW circles, youth, children's leadership, mission, music groups and so on. My hope is that this event will be the first of ongoing annual "vision-casting" events for our church, held in the early part of each calendar year.

For now, please block out that day on your calendar...Saturday, February 16...and then plan to be in worship service on the 17th.

It will be a weekend you won't want to miss!

John

Did you know?

United Methodist Black College Hits The Big Screen

A little-known "David and Goliath" story came to life on the silver screen in the Christmas 2007-release "The Great Debaters."

Denzel Washington portrays Melvin B. Tolson, a Wiley College professor who in 1935 inspired students to form the school's first debate team and challenge the University of Southern California (shown as Harvard in the film) in a national championship. Despite incredible odds, Wiley beat Southern California—and a score of other oratorical powerhouses.

Wiley, located in Marshall, Texas, is one of the denomination's 11 historically Black colleges and universities which graduate about a fourth of all African-American college students. For more than a century, these institutions have enriched minds and led the way in education, medicine, politics, religion and science.

The Black College Fund is critical to the survival and growth of United Methodism's historically Black colleges and universities. You can support leadership for life by encouraging your congregation to pay its Black College Fund apportionment 100 percent. Help Wiley College and other historically African-American institutions to meet the challenges of the 21st century. Contribute to the legacy. Thank you!

Editor's note: First United Methodist Church, Canyon pays 100% of its apportionments to this fund and the other mission opportunities of the United Methodist Church. Thanks for being extravagant givers!

Paper Goods Shower for Wesley Community Center

The United Methodist Women are inviting the whole church to bring paper goods to the church during the month for the Wesley Community Center in Amarillo. Toilet paper, kleenex, notebook paper, plates, cups, napkins, etc. would be very much appreciated. In fact, anything they can use for their Day Care Center will be very much appreciated.

Spiritual Growth Opportunity

Richard J. Foster, author of *Celebration of Discipline*, **Marti Ensign**, a missionary to Africa for many years, and **George Skramstad**, Pastor of Worship Ministries at Crossings Community Church in Oklahoma City, will lead a **Renovaré Regional Conference on Spiritual Renewal at First Presbyterian Church in Midland** on Friday and Saturday, February 1 and 2, 2008.

Participants will rediscover time-tested, practical tools for individual spiritual growth that leads to discipleship to Jesus Christ and a plan for organizations of all denominations to revitalize, deepen, and renew their relationship with God. For more information and registration forms, brochures are on the side hall table or you can log on to <http://www.renewmidland.com/>.

Youth News

The Kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls, and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all he had, and bought it.
Matthew 13: 45-46

Jesus said that in seeking, you will find. The question that has come up lately is, "What do you do once you find that pearl of great value?" So many times we try to slip the pearl into our pocket and walk out with the priceless pearl along with everything else we want in life. There is a price to following Jesus. We want to hide from that sometimes, but there is a cost, and the cost is giving up ourselves. The interesting thing about giving up yourself to God is that when you do, you receive a more perfect version of who you are in return. So the cost is only a small fraction of the same reward. It is almost like depositing your money into a savings account that has no risk, and the rate of return is a thousand times the investment. It is a no-brainer; and yet, we are reluctant. During our time together at youth, one of the things we will be looking at in the weeks to come is the reality that it is not easy to really invest in that priceless pearl of God's Love. We will be digging into many of the parables of Jesus, particularly on Wednesday nights, and looking into the abundant rewards that we receive when we invest in our relationship with God, and our relationships with each other. We will also continue to participate in service projects, like the house that we painted over the Christmas break, seeing that the reward is greater than the investment. We will find out together that the more we invest, the more we will be blessed. See you there!

Scott

UPCOMING DATES

January 16 Kid's CLUBS
January 18 6:00-10:00
Parents Night Out
January 20 10:45 3rd Graders
Presented with Bibles
4:00 Acolyte Training

Acolyte Schedule

January 13
8:30
Rodey Newton and Garrett Simpson
10:45

Evan Rice and Blake Hartman



A "LOVE" NOTE "2008"

What does God have planned for you and me? As I began to think about my New Years resolution I pondered this question. It is not really about what I want to change in my life in 2008 - but what God wants to do with my life this year. God reminded me of the scripture that He placed in my heart so many years before. I Corinthians 14:24 *"What should be done then, my friends? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up the Kingdom."*

This year each of us have the opportunity to use our time, talents and gifts to build up the Kingdom. Take time to pray and listen... Is God calling you to be a part of a new ministry? What gift do you have to share with this Body of Christ to build up the Kingdom? If you hear God calling you in a new ministry direction be sure to let someone on staff know. If you are feeling the Spirit tug at your heart and want to be a part of the Children's Ministry please contact me. God wants all of us to come together to build up the Kingdom.

Blessings for the New Year,
Lee Ann

General Fund Stewardship Report

For eleven months ending November 30, 2007

General Fund gifts received as of Nov 30	\$ 870,383
Miscellaneous income to General Fund	8,409
General Fund Revenue	878,792
General Fund expenses as of Nov 30	846,534
General Fund as of Nov 30	32,258
Apportionments due for October	10,160
Apportionments due for November	12,433
Net income for November, 2007	\$ 9,665

Designated Gifts

For the Month of November, 2007

2007 General Fund	\$ 82,886
Faith Promise	755
Adult Choir	100
Angel Tree	334
Apportionments (Connectional Ministries)	120
Backyard Missions	60
Bereavement	10
Big Spring Pastor's family	500
Building Renovations	10,060
Ceta Canyon Friends Table	300
Children Ministries	237
China Missions - Kyle & Shasta Merrill	40
Costa Rica	2,062
New Life Advanced International	50
Pension	10
Sanctuary Sound/Video System	100
Sharing Fund	306
United Methodist Student Day	62
Wednesday Night Fellowship Fundraiser	266
Wesley Foundation	25
Women's Ministries	500
Total Gifts - November, 2007	\$ 98,782