



Two Sections, Section A
November 12, 2010
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Worship With Us

Sunday Worship
8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.
Traditional Service

10:45 a.m.
Contemporary Service

Television
10 a.m., Sundays
My TV 16

5:30 p.m., Sundays
Big 2 KMID

Radio
11 a.m., Sundays
KWEL 1070 AM

Live Web Streaming
8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m., Sundays
www.firstmethodistmidland.com



Former President Returns to First Church

By Krystal Porter, Director of Communications

October 29 was a day that Dr. Tim Walker and the staff at First United Methodist Church will remember always. On this memorable day, former President George W. Bush returned to Glass Memorial Chapel where he married his wife Laura on November 5, 1977, to film his first television interview since leaving the Oval Office. NBC News journalist and “Today Show” co-host, Matt Lauer interviewed President Bush regarding his recently published book “Decision Points,” including some very personal questions about his life, family and beliefs.

Dr. Walker and a small group of staff were permitted to watch the interview as it happened, alongside NBC staff members who had set up television monitors in Room 101. The excitement surrounding the interview did not end when the cameras quit rolling! Dr. Walker and his wife Karen; Jay Gage, Associate Pastor; Lynda Johnson, Director of Finance; Donna Fields, Director of Children’s Ministries; and Charlie Williams, Facilities Director were invited to meet with President Bush following his interview. Other church staff members were asked to gather on the steps of the Sanctuary for a group photo with President Bush before he was whisked away by the Secret Service.

Dr. Tim Walker remarked, “Imagine the thrill we enjoyed around the church campus! The President was warm and gracious to greet those of us who were present, and paused for



Former President George W. Bush embraces Dr. Tim and Karen Walker following his NBC interview.

photos, and gave a few hugs. Matt Lauer paused as he left the Chapel commenting that it made a perfect and beautiful backdrop for the interview set.”

NBC Producer Joe Delmonico had nothing but praise for our church and the staff that assisted in the extensive set-up required for the interview, which aired the evening of Nov. 8. Lights were mounted to the Chapel ceiling and placed between pews, and three cameras were brought in, including one mounted to a mechanical crane.

“It went wonderfully,” Delmonico said. “The church staff was just unbelievable, totally wonderful. I just want to say thank you to everyone here at the church, because this in all honesty, was a complicated interview shoot for us. We really wanted to come here because his faith is extremely important to him, and of course, so is his family. These were two areas we were interested in discussing with him, so this Chapel was the perfect setting for that. To have as much help from the church as we had was just wonderful and we really appreciate it.”



NBC’s Matt Lauer pauses to compliment the beautiful Glass Memorial Chapel, where the interview was filmed.



Bush greets staff and poses for a photo. Back row: (l to r) Barry Brauchi, Member; Terra Martens, Assistant to Associate Pastors; Rev. Robert Pelfrey, Associate Pastor; Amanda Cuyler, Receptionist; Pat Fitts, Custodian; Ollie Kimbro, Nursery Child Care Coordinator. Front row: (l to r) Reyes Vazquez, Custodian; Former President George W. Bush; Deborah Wilson, Administrative Assistant to Children’s and Youth Departments.

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Fun Times @ Fallapalooza

By Kaci Rybolt



Fallapalooza was a great success again this year! We had approximately 260 people come through to trunk or treat and about 20 cars handing out candy! Lots of smiles and lots of candy were had by all! It was a huge success and we hope to see you there next year! A special thank you to Allison Creswell, Amber Davidson, Cressinda Hayatt, Donna Fields, Kara Gaines, and Kristine Martinez for cooking and donating the hot dogs. Also, thank to Mike Bagwell for donating the water, the youth who ran the carnival booths, and all the families that donated candy.



Trunk or Treat! Who are these super heroes hanging out with a blue M&M? Why, it is Aden Pitts and Jill Dolloff coming to the rescue with candy at Fallapalooza.

Children First Kids Trick or Treat at First Church



Senior Pastor, Dr. Tim Walker (above) and Assistant to the Associate Pastors, Terra "Goldilocks" Martens (below) greet Children First kids with candy as they trick or treat at the offices of church staff on Thursday, Oct. 28.



Do you know the Orkin Man? Children's Ministry Director Donna Fields (r) and Children First Director Amber Davidson (l) prepare to exterminate Nursery Child Care Coordinator Ollie Kimbro (c) who dressed as a cockroach.

JAM 56 Raps in Worship



Jam 56 Kids Perform Blessings in Backpacks Rap during Sunday Worship Services on Oct. 31. (l to r) Samantha Strahan, Sarah Moody, Hannah Douglas, Jim "Yo Yo" Sears, Cassidy Wray, Billy Hennings and Zach Harrell (in the box)!



BY THE NUMBERS

50

Backpacks filled
JAM 56 Backpacks and Blessings

575

Coats Distributed
(as of 11.8)
Coats for Kids
Coat Drive

\$0

Amount in
Coats for Kids Account
(Requests for coats are
still being received.)

WORSHIP

10.31.10/11.7.10

218/200

Contemporary
Worship

115/147

8:30 a.m. Traditional
Worship

316/342

10:45 a.m. Traditional
Worship

73/79

Oasis Youth Worship

The Pastor's Pen

by Dr. Tim Walker, Senior Pastor



I am not sure if you have heard this story before, but I like it, and as we approach Thanksgiving, it may help you keep your attitude of gratitude. (I have been unable to verify the historicity of the story, so you may want to think of it as legend.)

Thanksgiving is a national holiday, a day of thanks for our nation and it is also an opportunity to express personal thanks to God for His grace and provision.

The Pilgrim fathers who landed at Plymouth Rock over 300 years ago knew nothing of the affluent times which you and I enjoy today in this great country of ours. The next time you and I are tempted to complain about inflation and the state of our economy, remember the following: During that first long winter at Plymouth Colony, seven times as many graves were made for the dead as homes for the living. *Continued on 6A*

Join us for the Church Thanksgiving Luncheon

Sunday, Nov. 21
Noon - 2 p.m.
Activity Center

Tickets: Adults \$7
Seniors \$6
Youth and Children \$4



Purchase your tickets before Friday, Nov. 19 at the church office, at the Wednesday evening meal, or online at: www.firstmethodistmidland.com.

FUMC Assists with Apostles Build

by Rev. Robert Pelfrey, Associate Pastor

First United Methodist Church has joined forces with Habitat for Humanity for an Apostles Build. Twelve area churches have come together to share the expense and workload of building a house for a local family. First Church donated \$4,333 to help construct the Habitat House located at 1107 Dakota.

Members of our church assist with the construction of this Habitat for Humanity home on Nov. 4-6 as part of the Apostles Build. (l to r) Billy Priebe, Roger Martinez, Mike Whittenberg, Dave Hill and Mark Semmelbeck assist with roofing.



Generations Enjoy Wild Game Dinner

By Kara Harris, Relationship Center Coordinator

Top Row (l to r):

1) Rick McGilvray's zebra and Mark Semmelbeck's bobcat add to the trophy mount display. 2) On Oct. 29, more than 200 men from around the Permian Basin attended the Wild Game Dinner with speaker/singer Steve Chapman. 3) Three generations of the Pitts family. The cold IBC root beer in a glass bottle may have been the favorite part of the evening for six year old Aden. 4) The giant turkey leg is no match for Brandon Renton, age 10. 5) Men load up their plates with turkey legs, country fried steak, gravy, wedge potatoes, corn on the cob, deer chili, cornbread, and warm cobbles with ice cream. To ease our conscience, salad was also included. 6) Paul Colwell presents Kenneth Rybolt with the grand prize, a Remington Model 1100 Sporting Series Shotgun.



A Musical Invitation for Advent

by Dr. Glen Olsen, Director of Worship Arts



Fellow worshipers, I want to invite you to consider raising your praise to a new level and join with the Chancel Choir this coming Christmas season to sing some beautiful music of the season in worship. We have a great time preparing for our worship each week in the Wednesday evening rehearsals and would love to have as many of you who would want to sing join us for the Christmas season this year.

By joining the choir for Wednesday rehearsals, beginning Nov. 17, you would be able to sing with us at the 8:30 p.m. service on Christmas Eve (Friday, Dec. 24) and sing with us for both services on Sunday, Dec. 19. You will get a chance to sing a Christmas classic, a new carol from the Caribbean, a new anthem of praise and a gorgeous classic Christmas carol from Austria (this one is in addition to Silent Night). Just start coming to rehearsals on Nov. 17 to begin learning this music.

Rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 7:00-8:30 p.m. Hope you can make it and join us in praising our God in song for the birth of His Son, Jesus Christ!

The Pastor's Pen

Continued from page 5A

The ship which was to bring food and relief brought 35 more mouths to feed, but not an ounce of provisions.

Touching indeed is the picture of William Brewster, rising from a scanty Plymouth dinner, consisting of a plate of clams and a glass of cold water, to thank God "for the abundance of the sea and the treasures hid in the sand."

The Pilgrims didn't have much, but they possessed a great gratitude and it was upon this very thing that America was built. These stalwart people, strong, devout and sincere were the timbers upon which our nation was founded.

They had a custom of putting 5 kernels of corn upon each empty plate before a dinner of "thanksgiving" was served. Each member of the family would pick up a kernel and tell what they were thankful for. It was to remind them that the first Pilgrims were in such dire straits that their allowance was only 5 kernels of corn per person each day.

We have many reasons to be thankful. Let's take 5 kernels of corn, think of 5 things to praise God for. You might use this as your Thanksgiving focus this year. If you need a scripture, try *Psalms 103:1-5*

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits— who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

For Your Information

Charge Conference

The annual Charge Conference and Church Council Meeting is scheduled to be held Sunday, Nov. 21 at 5 p.m. in Room 107.

Church Directory Update

In spite of several setbacks, we are pleased to inform you that the 2010 Church Directory will in fact be arriving in 2010. According to a Lifetouch company representative, the directories should ship the first week of December. We will include an announcement in the worship bulletin and Tower Times when the directory arrives at the church office for you to pick up.

Women's Retreat Bake Sale

Dear Church Family,

We would like to invite all past retreat ladies to help us with our annual bake sale. Please bring any baked goodies to the parlor on Sunday, Nov. 21. This is our only fundraiser to help us in the cost of our women's retreat. Everyone else, we invite you to stop by the parlor and purchase lots of delicious homemade desserts for the Thanksgiving holiday or as a nice gift for someone special.

Hope to see everyone at the Women's Retreat Bake Sale, Sunday, Nov. 21.

Blessings,
Melissa Hagins



As a church, we want to do everything we can to support your spiritual growth. We want to know what's helping you grow spiritually, and what's getting in the way.

So sometime between Nov. 7 - 20 we're asking you to set aside 25-30 minutes to take our Spiritual Life Survey. The survey findings will help shape our decisions about how to create the best possible ministry strategies to serve you.

We know you are very busy. But this is very important. Please use this link to access the survey—and pass it along to all your friends who call our church their church home.

www.firstmethodistmidland.com/home/spiritual-life-survey

Questions? Contact Rev. Daniel Harris, *Pastor of Discipleship* at 682.3701 or by email at danielharris@firstmethodistmidland.com.

Memorial Gifts

October 2010

Missions

Given in memory of Keith Peverley
by Karen, Donnie and Cade Michael

Hymnal Fund

Given in memory of Bonita Woods Adams
by the Buddy Wood Class

Care Ministry

Given in honor of Marie Coleman
by Sylvia Clarke

Undesignated Memorial Fund

Given in memory of Bertha Stroman
by Bob and Lettie Dutton

Given in memory of Bertha Stroman
by Vince and Jann Bash

Given in memory of Bertha Stroman
by Trey and Barbra Grafa

Given in memory of Jack Whitmire
by Don and Betty Ewan



ENOUGH

Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity

We thank you for your generous acceptance of stewardship and pray you may find the level of giving that is right for you as you progress in your journey of faith and commitment. Your pledges and contributions are a critical part of how we can make a difference in our church, our community, and our world. If you have not already returned your estimate of giving card, please complete this form, cut it out, and return it during worship or to the church office. You may change your commitment at any time by notifying the church office. If you have questions regarding this card, call the church office at (432) 682-3701.

Estimate of Giving Card

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Email: _____
Home Phone: (_____) _____

Yes! I/We will support First Church in 2011!

Choose One:
\$ _____ weekly for 52 weeks \$ _____ monthly for 12 months
\$ _____ semi-monthly for 24 periods \$ _____ as follows _____
Signature _____ Date _____

Electronic Funds Transfer Authorization

Desired Day of Month for Transactions _____

Checking Information for Debit
Routing Number: _____
Account Number: _____

Debit/Credit Card Information
Credit Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____
Name on Card _____
Billing Address (if different from above) _____

I authorize First United Methodist Church of Midland, TX and Vanco Services, LLC to deduct or charge funds in accordance with the information above.

Signature _____ Date _____

Note: All withdrawals will be on the indicated day unless it is a non-banking business day

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Why is giving important?
A: The Bible has much to say about wisdom and finances, with 2,300 verses that tell us to be generous and good stewards of our resources. Jesus taught generosity and sacrifice. He demanded that his followers serve not wealth but God, and in the parable of the talents he taught that God will hold us each accountable for what we do with all our earthly possessions.

Q: What is expected of me?
A: The Bible teaches us to give a tithe, or the first 10 percent of what we earn, to God and the church's work. For some, giving one tenth is a very difficult goal. For others, it is the starting point, and their giving far exceeds 10 percent. Begin by determining what percentage of your income you are giving to God. If you are not yet tithing, consider taking a step toward tithing this year. For example, if you now give 3 percent of your income, consider increasing your gift to 4 percent, and add 1 percent each year until you reach the tithing goal.

Q: Why do I need to return an estimate of giving card?
A: The process of prayerfully asking God to guide your decision and then making a commitment to serve the Lord with your financial gifts is an act of worship, an expression of gratitude and praise to God. On a more practical note, your commitment allows our church to budget and better plan for our ministries, key objectives, and mission outreach programs.

Q: What if financial hardship prohibits me from making a commitment this year?
A: Don't let your inability to give at this time keep you from worship. Remember that God honors your faithfulness and that your acceptance at First United Methodist Church is not based upon your capacity to give. We ask that everyone return an estimate of giving card even if it is a limited financial commitment at this time. You can always increase or decrease your commitment if your situation changes by calling the church.

Q: Why do I need to turn in a new commitment card each year?
A: Financial situations change from year to year, and if we are growing in our faith, our annual commitment should likewise reflect that giving growth. Each year, our church budget is based upon the growing commitments of our congregation.

Q: Should I use Electronic Funds Transfer?
A: Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) by draft from a checking/savings account or by charge to a debit/credit card is the easiest, most cost-effective giving option for both you and the church. With EFT, you can reinforce your commitment to give your tithes and offerings to God first, before anything else. If you choose this option, you must return an estimate of giving card each year authorizing the electronic funds transfer.

FOLLOW YOUR HEART AND GIVE GENEROUSLY

My father, who is now retired, was a very successful business man, held political office positions and was on the board of various organizations. His highest level of formal education was the 8th grade. He told me many times that his success was not based on his education but because of his belief in God. His motto was to give to the Lord first with your tithing and then share with others. He never imagined that the Lord would return to bless him in so many ways.

By example, he taught our family to understand the importance of giving so they too will be blessed. Through generous giving, your needs will be taken care of throughout your life. Following in his footsteps, I too have been blessed beyond my dreams and try to follow my heart and give generously. — Mitzi Thomas

Early in our marriage we decided to tithe. That was not always easy, but we never went without food, clothes or a place to live. What we had was not always the best, but the Lord has blessed us in so many ways with a loving family and friends. Even today, some forty plus years later in retirement, we continue to be committed to the same principle. — Bernie and Lois Hagins

Our Christian Family

as of 11/7/10



Christian Sympathies To:

Jackie Cary and family on the death of her husband Audra Cary.

Christmas Poinsettia Sales Begin Nov. 10

Poinsettias are **\$15 each** with proceeds benefitting the Oasis Youth Program.

Poinsettias may be purchased in honor or in memory of a loved one and will remain in the Sanctuary through the holidays, with some going to our homebound members. **Memorial/Honorarium names will be printed in the December 24 edition of the Tower Times.** Plants purchased for your home or business will be available for pick-up or delivery the first week of December.

You may order your poinsettias:

- Directly from a member of the youth group
- At the church office
- By visiting the Apostles Hallway Nov. 14, Nov. 21 or Nov. 28
- Online at www.firstmethodistmidland.com
- By placing your order envelope in offering plate, or in the mail



Upcoming Events

11.10

Youth Poinsettia Sales Begin

11.12

Women of Worship Service
6:30 p.m.
(Fellowship Hall)

11.14

Fall Choir Jam - Contemporary Service
10:45 a.m.
(Fellowship Hall)

11.17

Hope for the Holidays Service
5:30 p.m.
(Chapel)

11.20

Spiritual Life Survey Concludes

11.21

Women's Retreat Bake Sale
8 a.m. - Noon
(Parlor)

11.21

Church Thanksgiving Luncheon
12 - 2 p.m.
(Activity Center)

11.21

Annual Charge Conference and Church Council Meeting
5 p.m.
(Room 107)

11.28

First Sunday of Advent

12.5

Donald Davis, Storyteller
8:30 and 10:45 a.m.
(Sanctuary)

12.8

Donald Davis, Storyteller
6 p.m.
(Fellowship Hall)

12.8

Youth Poinsettia Sales Conclude

New Members and Baptisms



Walker Dean Johnston
Baptized 10-24-10



Jacob, Alex and Krystal Porter



New Members Not Pictured

Stephanie Stephenson
Brandi Geron
Chris Geron

Pictured with Rev. Robert Pelfrey prior to their baptisms on Oct. 31: (L to R) Levi Geron, KaLee Geron, Nathaniel Spellings*, Rayni Johnson-Geron, Hayli Johnson*, Kayla Johnson* and Catherine Gibbons.*

*Also joined church