



# TOWER TIMES

edition of  
*The United Methodist Reporter*

Two Sections, Section A | 073785 | Volume 155 | Number 40 | February 6, 2009

First United Methodist Church ♦ 300 North Main Street ♦ Midland, Texas 79701 ♦ 432.682.3701 ♦ [www.firstmethodistmidland.com](http://www.firstmethodistmidland.com)

## Eat that Frog



By: Dr. Tim Walker, Senior Pastor

Mark Twain once said that if the first thing you do each morning is eat a live frog, you can go through the day with the satisfaction of knowing that is probably the worst thing that is going to happen to you all day long.

Brian Tracy wrote, "The first rule of frog eating is this: If you have to eat two frogs, eat the ugliest one first."

Well, here we are in the New Year. I've been trying to eat a few frogs—doing those most important and probably difficult tasks that I set out to do when I wrote my New Year's goals. I enjoy setting goals. I usually spend a number of hours working through the various areas of my life that need improving need challenging or need developing.

I would rather do the easy things. Sometimes I believe that's more productive—it is certainly less stressful. But eventually you have to get to the frog eating.

Brian Tracy wrote a second rule: "If you have to eat a live frog at all, it doesn't pay to sit and look at it for very long."

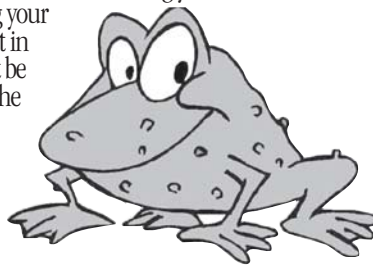
What's the major task you need to tackle early in 2009? What's your hurdle to getting to where God wants you to be?

In our life with Christ, we are challenged by Jesus himself to "take up the cross daily." Do the tough thing. Make the difficult decision. Challenge the resistance in your spirit to doing the right thing. I guess we could paraphrase Jesus' words like this, "eat the frog."

Our tendency in our walk with Christ is to procrastinate. Sometimes that comes under the guise of praying about it. At times it's under the guise of collecting all the wisdom we can before we move forward. It's a real temptation.

What is it you thought you would have already done with Christ by the end of the first month of 2009? Would it be sharing your witness? Would it be praying? Would it be reading your Bible? Would it be serving Christ in some specific ministry? Would it be tithing? Would it be increasing the frequency of your worship life?

Time to "eat the frog."  
Time to "take up the cross."  
Time to "do it" for Jesus' sake.



## American Boychoir in Concert at First Church



For over 70 years, The American Boychoir has been enriching the cultural life of the Nation by bringing its unique and joyful sound to people around the country and the world. Experience the incomparable and electrifying voices of The American Boychoir under the musical leadership of Litton-Lodal Music Director Fernando Malvar-Ruiz at the First United Methodist Church Sanctuary on February 25 at 7 p.m.

Enjoy a rare opportunity to hear the Nation's leading

professional concert Boychoir with a program as diverse and dynamic as the boys themselves. The Boychoir's Southwest Tour includes classical music, jazz arrangements, and music from around the world including Brazilian Rainforest dance music.

Boys in grades 3-7, who love to sing, are encouraged to audition after the concert. No preparation is necessary. More information about The American Boychoir can be found at [www.americanboychoir.org](http://www.americanboychoir.org).

The American Boychoir continues to dazzle audiences with its unique blend of musical sophistication, effervescent spirit, and ensemble virtuosity. Boys in grades four through eight, reflecting the ethnic, religious and cultural diversity of the US, come from across the country and around the world to pursue a rigorous musical and academic curriculum at The American Boychoir School. Maintaining an active national and international touring schedule, the ensemble performs and records regularly with such

world-class artists and ensembles as the Boston Symphony Orchestra, soprano Jessyé Norman, pop diva Beyoncé, and Sir Paul McCartney. In addition to over 110 solo concerts each season, The American Boychoir has been extensively recorded and broadcast on radio and television, with some forty-five commercial recordings to its name.

The programs offered by The American Boychoir School are made possible in part through a grant by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts. Additional funding has been provided by the New Jersey Cultural Trust.

Come enjoy this special treat:

**February 25**  
**7 p.m.**  
**Sanctuary**



## 1st Word Opportunities

Enjoy a variety of ways to worship at First Church.

### TELEVISION:

My TV 16 (NOSA) 10-10:30 a.m. Sundays  
Big 2 (KMID) 5:30-6 p.m. Sundays

### PODCAST:

[www.fumcmidland.sermonpodcasts.net](http://www.fumcmidland.sermonpodcasts.net)

### WEB (Streaming Live):

10:45 a.m. at [www.firstmethodistmidland.com](http://www.firstmethodistmidland.com)

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11 a.m. on *KWEL 1070 AM*

### DVD/CD OR PRINT:

Available in the Church foyer

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8:30 and 10:45 a.m. in Sanctuary  
10:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall  
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## Deadlines

### Tower Times

February 20 issue deadline is February 12, 2 p.m.

February 27 issue deadline is February 19, 2 p.m.

### Sunday Bulletin Announcements

February 15 deadline is February 10, 2 p.m.

If you have something you would like to include in the bulletin or Tower Times, contact Jana Huff, Director of Communications at [jahuff@firstmethodistmidland.com](mailto:jahuff@firstmethodistmidland.com).

## SHROVE TUESDAY Pancake Supper

February 24

5-7:30 p.m.

\$5 Adults

\$2 Children Ages 6-12

\$20 Family Maximum



Sponsored by the Chancel Choir

## THE BACK PAGE

PHILIP YANCEY



# A Surefire Investment

*How to pray in the midst of financial catastrophe.*

**H**ISTORIANS WILL LOOK at the year that just ended as a financial tsunami that left in its wake millions of foreclosed homes, bankruptcies, and lost jobs. As if competing to abandon the basic tenets of capitalism, governments threw money at banks, investment companies, and huge insurers in an attempt to restore trust and stanch the flow of capital.

During one of the most volatile periods, a week in which global stock markets declined by \$7 trillion, I received a call from an editor at *Time*. "You wrote a book on prayer, right?" he said. "Tell me, how should a person pray during a crisis like this?" In the course of the conversation, we came up with a three-stage approach to prayer.

The first stage is simple, an instinctive cry: "Help!" For someone who faces a job cut or health crisis or watches retirement savings wither

away, prayer offers a way to voice fear and anxiety. I have learned to resist the tendency to edit my prayers so that they sound sophisticated and mature. I believe God wants us to come exactly as we are, no matter how childlike we may feel. A God aware of every sparrow that falls surely knows the impact of scary financial times on frail human beings.

Indeed, prayer provides the best possible place to take our fears. As a template for prayers in crisis, I look at Jesus' night in Gethsemane. He threw himself on the ground three times, sweat falling from his body like drops of blood, and felt "overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death." In the midst of that anguish, however, his prayer changed from "Take this cup from me" to "May your will be done." In the scenes of trial that followed, Jesus was the calmest character present. His season of prayer had relieved him of anxiety, reaffirmed his trust in a loving Father, and emboldened him to face the horror that awaited.

If I pray with the intent to listen as well as talk, I can enter into a second stage, that of meditation and reflection. Okay, my life savings has virtually disappeared. What can I learn from this seeming catastrophe? In the midst of the financial news, a Sunday school song kept running through my mind:

*The wise man built his house upon the rock . . .  
And the wise man's house stood firm.  
The foolish man built his house upon the sand . . .  
Oh, the rain came down, and the floods came up.*

A time of crisis presents a good opportunity to identify the foundation on which I construct my life. If I place my ultimate trust in financial security or in the government's ability to solve my problems, I will surely watch the basement flood and the walls crumble.

A friend from Chicago, Bill Leslie, used to say that the Bible asks three main questions about money: (1) How did you get it? (Legally and justly or exploitatively?); (2) What are you doing with it? (Indulging in luxuries or helping the needy?); and (3) What is it doing to you? Some of Jesus' most

trenchant parables and sayings go straight to the heart of that last question.

As analysts began picking through the ruins of the financial collapse, they started dusting off old-fashioned words: *greed*, *moderation*, *integrity*, and *trust*. When executives line their

pockets at the expense of employees and shareholders, when banks make speculative loans with little likelihood of payback, when borrowers walk away from good-faith contracts, the system collapses. A functioning economy is held together by a thin web of trust. (If you doubt that, visit a country where you have to pay bribes to get action and must count your change after every purchase.)

The same week that global wealth shrank by \$7 trillion, Zimbabwe's inflation rate hit a record 231 million percent. In other words, if you had saved \$1 million Zimbabwean dollars by Monday, on Tuesday it was worth \$1.58. This sobering fact leads me to the third and most difficult stage of prayer in crisis: I need God's help in taking my eyes off my own problems in order to look with compassion on the truly desperate.

Jesus taught us to pray, "Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven," and we know that heaven will include no homeless, destitute, or starving people. As the stock market dove to uncharted depths, I couldn't help thinking of private colleges, mission agencies, and other nonprofits, all of which depend heavily on the largesse of donors.

What a testimony it would be if, in 2009, Christians resolved to increase their giving to build houses for the poor, combat AIDS in Africa, and announce kingdom values to a decadent, celebrity-driven culture. Such a response defies all logic and common sense—unless, of course, we take seriously the moral of Jesus' simple tale about building houses on a sure foundation. G

# KID'S KORNER

## SAVE THE DATE



**Vacation Bible School**  
 Camp E.D.G.E.  
 June 22-25

**Junior High Lock-In**  
 for 6th-8th graders  
 February 6-7



**PROMISELAND**

Promiseland takes place every Sunday during the 10:45 a.m. service. It is important to have your child at the Ark on time so that he/she does not miss out on the wonderful activities that Promiseland has to offer. At 10:45 a.m. the three-Kindergarten age children head upstairs to the Storytelling and Drama room. The Promiseland Worship Team performs either a skit or a dance for the younger children at this time. After the performance the Promiseland children are taken back downstairs for a lesson. The teacher opens with a prayer then reads the story from the Bible. It is important for children to understand that they are in a place of worship and that they are listening to the Word of God. We are trying to teach them that church is God's house and that we need to be respectful of that. Each Sunday a Bible verse should go home with children. Please make sure that you get a copy of the verse each week. This is a great way to start a family devotional time at a young age and can be built upon as your child gets older. The last Sunday of the month the children will get to participate in Promiseland Prowl. This will be a time for the children to get to use some of the fun toys that Promiseland has in a way that relates to what we have been studying during our Sunday lessons. Promiseland is a great place for children to come learn about the Word and get excited about the wonderful stories that God has for us. Thank you for sharing your children with us on Sunday.

## Save the Date

**Sunday, March 1**

*Evening of Entertainment*

Tickets on SALE now!  
 You may purchase a ticket from any of the youth or contact Sharla Blair at 684.5154. Tickets are \$15 per person. Various table rates are also available.



February 8: Refuel  
 February 15: Retreat  
 February 22: Reconnect

Share your "rekindle" experiences.  
 Email to Dr. Tim Walker at [timwalker@firstmethodistmidland.com](mailto:timwalker@firstmethodistmidland.com).

*This is Love!*

*Come find out how to enrich your relationships!*

Featuring:  
 Relationships for Married Women  
 Relationships for Single Women  
 Trials in Relationships

**Women of Worship**  
 6:30 p.m.  
 Friday, February 13  
 First United Methodist Church West Campus

*Childcare Provided*

6th Annual Women's Retreat  
**"Windows of Prayer"**

Women 18 years and up are welcome to attend.  
 To register or for more information contact  
 Melissa Hagins at 520.9506.

February 20-22

Save the Date

**PRECEPT UPON PRECEPT BIBLE STUDY**  
**EPHESIANS**

**Ephesians -The Church: Rooted in Love, Walking in Power**  
 Chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world, targeted by grace, sons of God united in a single family, inheritors, holy, redeemed, forgiven, raised from the dead and seated with Jesus Christ in the heavenlies! How can you not study Ephesians!? Come learn who and what you are in Christ and you'll want to walk God's ways the rest of your life!

This is the description of Precept Ministries study on the book of Ephesians. Does it sound inviting to you? Let's get together and study.

We will begin on **Wednesday, February 11.** This is a ten-week study, concluding on April 29. We will begin at 9:15 a.m. with discussion (45-60 minutes) then watch the teaching video by Kay Arthur. Class will conclude at 11:15. You can count on approximately 5 hours of outside study per week.

If you have any questions please call Billie Petersen at 694.1040.

**Joys & Concerns**  
 as of February 2, 9 a.m.

**MIDLAND HEALTHCARE CENTERS**

- Helen Tobias (*Legends*)
- Danny Sullivan (*Midland Memorial Hospital*)
- Francis Kessner (*Midland Memorial Hospital - West*)
- George Horst (*Younger Center*)
- Angie Grafa (*Mabee Center*)
- Russell Cotton (*Hospice*)

**HOSPITALS (OTHER CITIES)**

- Jinger Hazelwood (*Austin*)
- Ted Jones (*Dallas*)
- Bob Ledbetter (*Odessa*)

**UPCOMING SURGERIES**

- Tiffany Simon
- Doc Dodson

**JOYS**

- Noah Derek Self born January 28. Parents are Heather and Chad Self. Sisters are Avalene and Avrie.

**CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO**

- Angie Ragsdale and family on the death of her grandmother Bernice Davis.
- Clark, Lauren and Morgan White on the death of his wife and their mother Chris White.



**Oasis Youth Ministries**  
 6-8:30 p.m.  
 Sundays

For more information on all youth activities and events contact  
 Rev. Jay Gage at [jaygage@firstmethodistmidland.com](mailto:jaygage@firstmethodistmidland.com) or  
 Dondi Carter at [dondicarter@firstmethodistmidland.com](mailto:dondicarter@firstmethodistmidland.com).  
 Oasis Youth is for all youth in grades seven through 12.



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## Accepting Your Assignment



By: Rev. Jay Gage, Associate Pastor

*"It is God Himself who has made us what we are and given us new lives from Christ Jesus; and long ages ago he planned that we should spend these lives in helping others."*  
~ Ephesians 2:10 (LB)

*"I glorified you on earth by completing down to the last detail what you assigned me to do."*  
~ John 17: 4 (Msg)

You were put on this earth to make a contribution. Our society today is full of people that are depressed, suicidal and miserable. I think one reason may be that people believe if you can achieve the American Dream, only then will you be happy. The American dream is all about "me" and when you only think about yourself, you will ultimately be miserable.

You weren't created to consume resources—to eat, breathe, and take up space. God designed you to make a difference with your life. You were created to add to life on earth, not just take from it. God wants you to give something back—and it is called your "ministry," or service.

Another version of Ephesians 2:10 says that God has created us for a life of good deeds, which he has already prepared for us to do.

These good deeds are your service, your ministry. Whenever you serve others in any way, you are actually serving God.

You were saved to serve God. Second Timothy 1:9 says, "It is he who saved us and chose us for his holy work, not because we deserved it but because that was his plan." You were not saved by service, you were saved for service. This gives your life great significance and value.

Have ever gone on a mission trip? How did you feel about serving others?

If you're like me, it is an amazing feeling to realize that God has used you in a significant way. Why then do we return and go right back into our self-centered bubble of existence?

The true Christian doesn't serve God out of guilt or fear or even duty but out of joy and deep gratitude for what he's done for us. We owe him our lives. Through salvation our past has been forgiven, our present is given meaning and our future is secured. In light of these incredible benefits Paul concluded, "Because of God's great mercy . . . offer yourselves as a living sacrifice to God, dedicated to his service." (Romans 12:1)

The apostle John taught that our loving service to others shows that we are truly saved. He said, "Our love for each other proves that we have gone from death to life." (1 John 3:14)

The term "ministry" sometimes throws people off. We think of pastors, youth directors and "official" workers for the church but that's not what God intended. God says every member of his family is a minister. In the Bible, the words servant and minister are synonymous, as are service and ministry. If you are a Christian, you are a minister and when you're serving, you're ministering.

We are saved to serve, not sit around and wait for heaven.

I've said this before but it bears repeating—if God's only goal for you was heaven, he'd take you there right after you accepted Him. There's more to it than that. He leaves us here to fulfill His purposes. Once you are saved God intends to use you for His goals. God has a ministry for you in His church and a mission for you in the world.

Some of you may think that being "called" by God is something only missionaries, pastors, nuns or other "full-time" church workers experience but the Bible says every Christian is called to service. Your call to salvation included your call to service. Regardless of your job, career, or your age, you are called to full-time Christian service.

How do we do it then? We don't have time to explore that in depth but I'm going to share some very practical ways that you can apply this concept to your life over the next few weeks. If you will do these things, you will notice a profound difference in your life and in your relationship with God.

First, open your eyes and look around. There are needs right under your nose that you can take care of. You do not have to go on a mission trip to serve and minister. What if you bought coffee for your co-workers just out-of-the-blue? What if you walked across the street and checked on your neighbor who is elderly and home-bound? What if you cleaned out your closet and took the clothes, shoes and coats to AMOS? What if you talked to one of the pastors here and asked them if there is an area of need within the church or a place where you could serve? Maybe you should go on a mission trip. Our church offers at least five every year: Sager Brown, Costa Rica, the senior high mission trip, the junior high mission trip, and the Mexico mission trip. Others are in the works for 2010. Age and experience are non-issues on these trips; everyone can play a role in ministering to the needy of the world.

As you begin to give and serve an amazing thing begins to happen: your outlook on life begins to change and the things that used to be such major obstacles slowly begin to become more manageable. You begin to experience true joy and a sense of purpose and relevance in the world and in the Body of Christ. Your faith is rekindled and the fire is stoked. Think about it, what would it hurt? "Don't knock it 'till you try it," as the saying goes. Get connected, get involved and be rekindled.

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**SHROVE TUESDAY**  
**Pancake Supper**

February 24  
5-7:30 p.m.  
\$5 Adults  
\$2 Children Ages 6-12  
\$20 Family Maximum

Tickets may be purchased from a choir member or by calling Deborah at the church office, 682.3701.

Sponsored by the Chancel Choir

**American Boychoir in Concert**

February 25

7 p.m.  
Sanctuary

Free Admission

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

Friday, February 13 - Women of Worship (W.O.W.)  
Wednesday, February 18 - Wednesdays @ First  
February 20-22 - Women's Retreat  
Tuesday, February 24 - Shrove Pancake Supper  
Wednesday, February 25 - American Boys Choir  
Wednesday, February 25 - No Wednesdays @ First Classes  
Wednesday, February 25 - Ash Come-n-Go Service  
Sunday, March 1 - Movie Magic - Evening of Entertainment  
Sunday, March 1 - Lent Begins  
Wednesday, March 4 - Wednesdays @ First  
Wednesday, March 4 - Dr. May's Adult Dating Class Begins  
Wednesday, March 11 - Wednesdays @ First  
Friday, March 13 - Women of Worship (W.O.W.)  
Sunday, March 15 - Featuring Mike Lewis - the "Jesus Painter"  
Wednesday, March 18 - NO Wednesdays @ First  
Sunday, April 5 - Palm Sunday

# KID'S KORNER

## SAVE THE DATE



**Vacation Bible School**  
**Camp E.D.G.E.**  
 June 22-25

**Summer Camp**  
 Mark Your Calendars  
**June and July**  
 registration begins in March  
 more details coming soon



### CONFIRMATION 2009 - THE JOURNEY

The Journey continues as we enjoyed a lesson on the Sacraments presented by Rev. Macky Pitts. We also attended the Contemporary Worship Service together to share communion. We had a blast at the jr. high lock-in on Friday, February 6. Rev. Steve Brooks began our "Journey Through the Bible" with a class on "In the Beginning" and we enjoyed Oasis youth. Coming this Sunday, February 15, we will attend the 8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Service together to witness Ethan Harris' baptism. Ethan and his parents, Daniel and Kara will be visiting our class after the service and we are looking forward to a great lesson by Dr. Tim Walker as we continue our "Journey Through the Bible."

### ROCK SOLID KIDS

Rock Solid Kids this Sunday, February 15, for fourth through fifth graders. Meet in 103 right after church for pizza, games and a service project! Parents are welcome to join us! We will be done by 1:30 p.m.

## Save the Date

Sunday, March 1

Evening of Entertainment

Tickets on SALE now!  
 You may purchase a ticket from any of the youth or contact Sharla Blair at 684.5154. Tickets are \$15 per person. Various table rates are also available.



## REKINDLE

2009

February 15: Retreat

February 22: Reconnect

Share your "rekindle" experiences.  
 Email to Dr. Tim Walker at  
[timwalker@firstmethodistmidland.com](mailto:timwalker@firstmethodistmidland.com).

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*Come find out how to enrich your relationships!*

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 Relationships for Married Women  
 Relationships for Single Women  
 Trials in Relationships

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**"Windows of Prayer"**

Women 18 years and up are welcome to attend.  
 To register or for more information contact  
 Melissa Hagins at 520.9506.

**Welcome!**  
 Rob, Laurie and Tyler Tyre  
 We're so glad you chose to become part of our Church family in January.

**Joys & Concerns**  
 as of February 9, 9 a.m.

**MIDLAND HEALTHCARE CENTERS**  
 Helen Tobias (Midland Memorial Hospital)  
 Mary Frances Smith (Midland Memorial Hospital)  
 George Horst (Younger Center)  
 Angie Grafa (Mabee Center)

**HOSPITALS (OTHER CITIES)**  
 Jinger Hazelwood (Austin)  
 Bob Ledbetter (Odessa)

**JOYS**  
 Dryden Cole born February 1. Parents are Cassandra and Jack Glidewell. Grandfather is Lynn Glidewell. Great-grandparents are John and Marinell Glidewell.  
 Calla Grace born January 22. Parents are Erin and Barry Brauchi.  
 Hugo Richard born December 25, 2008. Parents are Jenhy and Danny Smith. Grandparents are Don and Nancy Smith. Great-grandmother is Fay Smith.

**CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO**  
 Clay and Angie Garlitz on the death of his mother.  
 The family of Russell Cotton on his death.  
 Jay and Nancy Isaacs and family on the death of her father Ron Jones.

**Dr. May's Adult Single/Dating Class**  
 begins March 4. Sign up today!

More classes will start March 25.  
 For more information on a class or to sign up for a class visit our website at [www.firstmethodistmidland.com](http://www.firstmethodistmidland.com) or contact Daniel Harris at 682.3701 x 226 or [danielharris@firstmethodistmidland.com](mailto:danielharris@firstmethodistmidland.com).  
 Pick up a brochure with detailed class descriptions at the church office or on the Fresh Start Tables.

Meals are also available at 5 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

*Wednesdays @ First*

February 20-22

Save the Date

**Oasis Youth Ministries**  
 6-8:30 p.m.  
 Sundays

For more information on all youth activities and events contact Rev. Jay Gage at [jaygage@firstmethodistmidland.com](mailto:jaygage@firstmethodistmidland.com) or Dondi Carter at [dondicarter@firstmethodistmidland.com](mailto:dondicarter@firstmethodistmidland.com).  
 Oasis Youth is for all youth in grades seven through 12.



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## Bread For The Journey



By: Rev. Steve Brooks Lead Associate Pastor

The other day I was reading our newspaper when I saw a large ad. It said, "Recession Special - Tummy Tucks and Breast Implants" for a certain price that I can't remember now, but I assume was a great deal. Of course, when the economy goes bad, you can at least cheer yourself up by having a flat tummy and large breasts for a great price.

There have been several things that I have seen lately that have reminded me how obsessed our culture is with youth, thinness and beauty. Have you seen all the hoopla all over the magazines and internet about how fat Jessica Simpson has gotten even though she is still clearly a healthy weight? There are countless commercials for anti-aging creams and fad diets. In our culture, if you are not thin, in-shape and young, you automatically go down a few notches in the minds many people.

I'll admit, I struggle with all this as well. I look at pictures of myself when I was younger and thinner and feel a bit discouraged. I have had the same haircut literally my whole life and my when my barber told me I needed to be more "current" I acquiesced to the spiky cut. And of course, if I have spikes, my own sons will no longer be content with their "cheap and cheerful" buzz cuts that we have given them at home! Now, I'm not saying that it is wrong to be current or in style, I'm just sharing some thoughts I've had lately.

The other day something happened that really made me think about all this. I've introduced you to Lily-Grace, our 4 year old daughter, before but let me refresh your memories. She is about as "girly:" as you can get. If we try to force her to wear pants or jeans it is not a pretty picture. We made her wear them the other day when it was pretty cold and her preschool teacher told us that she came in mad at the world and stayed that way a long time.

So the other day when we were sitting at Wendy's after church and a comment she made really surprised us. We were waiting for our food and there was a table directly in front of us with four elderly women sitting at it. These women were all at least in their eighties and one was visibly shaking with Parkinson's or some other ailment. So when Lily-Grace pointed at them and said loudly, "Look at those ladies!" Alayna quickly turned around to shush her. But before she could be shushed, she said with awe in her voice, "They're beautiful!" It brought tears to my eyes. I wish she would stay like that forever. I wish it would rub off on all of us. I wish when we looked at someone with white hair and a wrinkled face, we would see the beauty of a life well-lived; when we saw someone who was overweight with out-of-style clothes, we would withhold judgment; when we see someone with tattoos and body piercings we would ask Jesus to show us how He sees them.

My prayer for all of us is that we would realize just how much every person matters to God, from the tummy-tucked, breast implanted woman to the dirty, disheveled man selling roses on the street corner.

I want to leave you with the words God spoke to Samuel as he was anointing David as king, "The Lord does not look at things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance but the Lord looks at the heart." The next time you are in a public place, try looking at each person and reminding yourself that God knows their heart and they matter to Him. Therefore they should matter to you too. Grace and Peace!



## Thank You!

Greetings from Belmont University! I must say the college experience has been glorious; one that has been full of intimidating changes and exciting revelations, many of which I never expected but am truly thankful for. I am growing deeper in my relationship with Christ. God has been so faithful to me in providing open doors in my life. He has transformed what I once considered lofty ideas into tangible realities and for that, I am grateful.

As many of you may have already heard, over Spring Break I am embarking on a week-long mission trip to Crimea, a region in southern Ukraine. We are planning to visit an orphanage (possibly several) while there. These orphanages are associated with a Washington State-based Christian organization called Orphan's Hope. ([www.orphanshope.org](http://www.orphanshope.org))

Our plans are to serve in this region during our college semester spring break from March 5-14. Our team will consist of about eight people. We plan on organizing, preparing, scheduling and working an arts camp for the kids of Orphan's Hope. We hope to share the Gospel and connect with the children through the arts—music, painting, drawing, dance, etc.

Taking the Gospel to another culture, to people much less fortunate than me, has always been a deep passion of mine. To work with them, to worship with them, to play with them and to share the Bible with them is our goal. After my unforgettable experience in Costa Rica this past summer, I know that God desires me to work in missions for some part of my life. I thrive on seeing the joy among people's faces as they recognize the love that Christ has for them. It is undeniably beautiful.

God has been so faithful to me in my plans for this trip. It's very apparent to me that God desires to use me in the Kingdom this way and it is so awesome to recognize the good, perfect and pleasing will that has been designed specifically for my life. The encouragement, support and love, whether through gifts or prayers, has been such a factor in making this possible.

As for new updates, I have created a blog about the planning process of the trip and I encourage anyone interested to follow along with me on my journey! I hope you will check it out at: <http://madisontravels.tumblr.com/>. I look forward to sharing these exciting experiences with you. Thank you so much for all of your support and love.

I would like to ask that you please join me in praying for all the preparations and plans going into making this mission trip happen, along with the hearts of the children of Crimea; the strength, courage and safety of the volunteers, as well as the chance to be the light that God has intended us to be.

Thanks again for all of your love, encouragement and support. I truly appreciate everything the people of First United Methodist Church in Midland have supported me in, as well as preparing me and urging me to spread my wings and fly! Now, in this leap of faith, I must soar.

"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither



do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." — Matthew 5:13-16

With all my love,  
*Madison Cary Mladenka*

## 1st Word Opportunities

Enjoy a variety of ways to worship at First Church.

### TELEVISION:

My TV 16 (NOSA) 10 -10:30 a.m. Sundays  
Big 2 (KMID) 5:30-6 p.m. Sundays

### PODCAST:

[www.fumcmidland.sermonpodcasts.net](http://www.fumcmidland.sermonpodcasts.net)

### WEB (Streaming Live):

10:45 a.m. at [www.firstmethodistmidland.com](http://www.firstmethodistmidland.com)

### RADIO (Live):

11 a.m. on *KWEL 1070 AM*

### DVD/CD OR PRINT:

Available in the Church foyer

### SUNDAY WORSHIP:

8:30 and 10:45 a.m. in Sanctuary  
10:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall  
11 a.m. at West Campus



## COMING SUNDAY

**8:30 and 10:45 a.m. Downtown Campus Worship Service** will be in the Sanctuary and feature a message by Dr. Tim Walker from the *Rekindle!* Series.

**10:45 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service** will be in the Fellowship Hall and feature a message by Rev. Steve Brooks from the *Rekindle!* Series.

**11 a.m. West Campus Worship Service** will feature a message by Dr. Tim Walker from the *Rekindle!* Series via videocast.

## Deadlines

### Tower Times

February 27 issue deadline is February 19, 2 p.m.

March 6 issue deadline is February 26, 2 p.m.

### Sunday Bulletin Announcements

March 1 deadline is February 23, 2 p.m.

If you have something you would like to include in the bulletin or Tower Times, contact Jana Huff, Director of Communications at [jnahuff@firstmethodistmidland.com](mailto:jnahuff@firstmethodistmidland.com).

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**February 20-22** - Women's Retreat

**Tuesday, February 24** - Shrove Pancake Supper

**Wednesday, February 25** - American Boys Choir

**Wednesday, February 25** - No Wednesdays @ First Classes

**Wednesday, February 25** - Ash Come-n-Go Service

**Sunday, March 1** - Movie Magic - Evening of Entertainment

**Sunday, March 1** - Lent Begins

**Wednesday, March 4** - Wednesdays @ First

**Wednesday, March 4** - Dr. May's Adult Dating Class Begins

**Wednesday, March 11** - Wednesdays @ First

**Friday, March 13** - Women of Worship (W.O.W.)

**Sunday, March 15** - Featuring Mike Lewis - the "Jesus Painter"

**Wednesday, March 18** - NO Wednesdays @ First

**Sunday, April 5** - Palm Sunday

**Sunday, April 12** - Easter Sunday

**Sunday, April 19** - Walk Thru the Bible - New Testament

## First Church Presents Perceptions

Perceptions is an inspirational 60-second radio broadcast that will begin March 2. The program will run Monday through Friday at 7:40 a.m. on local stations KBAT-FM 99.9 (Rock), KCRS-FM 103.3 (Pop) and KMRK-FM 96.1 (Country).

The messages will be delivered by Dr. Tim Walker, senior pastor. Dr. Walker earned his Bachelor of Arts in History and English from East Texas State University (now Texas A&M at Commerce), a Masters of Theology from Asbury Theological Seminary where he served as student body Chaplain, and a Doctor of Ministry from Fuller Theological Seminary. Dr. Walker enjoys a strong preaching and teaching ministry as well as spiritual leadership and presence in the community. He was appointed Senior Pastor of First United Methodist Church of Midland in May, 2005.

For more information, please visit [www.firstmethodistmidland.com](http://www.firstmethodistmidland.com) or call 432.682.3701.

## American Boychoir in Concert

February 25

7 p.m.  
Sanctuary

**FREE  
ADMISSION**

Presented by the Dollye Neal Worship Arts Academy



## Save the Date

### Sunday, March 1

Evening of Entertainment

Tickets on SALE now! You may purchase a ticket from any of the youth or contact Sharla Blair at 684.5154. Tickets are \$15 per person. Various table rates are also available.

## KID'S KORNER

### SAVE THE DATE



**Vacation Bible School**  
*Camp E.D.G.E.*  
June 22-25

**Summer Camp**  
Mark Your Calendars  
**June and July**  
*registration begins in March  
more details coming soon*



### We Need You!

Vacation Bible School 2009 planning is now underway! This year's theme, CAMP E.D.G.E., will take children to an extreme adventure camp where they will *Experience and Discover God Everywhere!* VBS will be held June 22-25. These four days will be an action-packed, adrenaline-filled expedition that teaches kids that their strength and might come from God.

Volunteers are still needed in many different areas. Please contact Mara Dolan at 634.8659 or [mara\\_dolan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mara_dolan@sbcglobal.net) if you would like to volunteer or have any questions.

### ADOPT A CONFIRMAND!

The 2009 Confirmation Class has begun its journey and we are looking for church members to adopt a Confirmand. This is an easy task. We just want to offer them some extra support through their journey with weekly prayer as they learn about our Christian faith and become closer to God. On Confirmation Sunday, May 3, we ask that you attend a celebration breakfast and write a card or bring a token gift. If you are interested in becoming a prayer partner please contact Leslie Goodrum at 413.8970 or [lgoodrum@esc18.net](mailto:lgoodrum@esc18.net).



Wednesday's at First will be going through the month of May this year. The Worship Arts Academy needs volunteers to assist with the children during the evening's M.A.D. activities. You do not have to be musically inclined, just have a willing heart and love kids. To join the team contact Dr. Tom Vozzella at 682.3701 or [tomvozzella@firstmethodistmidland.com](mailto:tomvozzella@firstmethodistmidland.com).

## REKINDLE

2009

February 22: Reconnect

Share your "rekindle" experiences.  
Email to Dr. Tim Walker at  
[timwalker@firstmethodistmidland.com](mailto:timwalker@firstmethodistmidland.com).

## SHROVE TUESDAY Pancake Supper

February 24  
5-7:30 p.m.  
\$5 Adults  
\$2 Children Ages 6-12  
\$20 Family Maximum

Tickets may be purchased from a choir member or by calling Deborah at 682.3701.

Sponsored by the Chancel Choir

### Oasis Youth Ministries

6-8:30 p.m.  
Sundays

For more information on all youth activities and events contact Rev. Jay Gage at [jaygage@firstmethodistmidland.com](mailto:jaygage@firstmethodistmidland.com) or Dondi Carter at [dondicarter@firstmethodistmidland.com](mailto:dondicarter@firstmethodistmidland.com).  
Oasis Youth is for all youth in grades seven through 12.

## Dr. May's Adult Single/Dating Class begins March 4. Sign up today!

More classes will start March 25. For more information on a class or to sign up for a class visit our website at [www.firstmethodistmidland.com](http://www.firstmethodistmidland.com) or contact Daniel Harris at 682.3701 x 226 or [danielharris@firstmethodistmidland.com](mailto:danielharris@firstmethodistmidland.com). Pick up a brochure with detailed class descriptions at the church office or on the Fresh Start Tables.



### Joys & Concerns as of February 13, 9 a.m.

**MIDLAND HEALTHCARE CENTERS**  
Helen Tobias (*Legends*)  
George Horst (*Younger Center*)  
Angie Grafa (*Mabee Center*)  
**HOSPITALS (OTHER CITIES)**  
Jinger Hazelwood (*Austin*)  
**UPCOMING SURGERIES**  
Doc Dodson  
Ben Abney



# TOWER TIMES

edition of  
*The United Methodist Reporter*

Two Sections, Section A | 073785 | Volume 155 | Number 43 | February 27, 2009

First United Methodist Church ♦ 300 North Main Street ♦ Midland, Texas 79701 ♦ 432.682.3701 ♦ [www.firstmethodistmidland.com](http://www.firstmethodistmidland.com)

## Church Council Anticipates Meaningful 2009



By: Dr. Tim Walker, Senior Pastor

In its first meeting of the year, the Church Council approved the 2009 operating budget, acted on our Foundation grants and disbursements and received valuable information about two ministries in our church.

The Church Council, chaired by Tim Culp, was in full session on February 19. Two informative reports were given.

The first by Rev. Steve Brooks, Associate Pastor, dealt with "First Impressions." Steve leads a "First Impressions" team whose purpose is to create WOW experiences in our church to help our guest and members know that they matter to God and us so that they can take their next step towards Him. This goal will be accomplished by establishing six teams that will serve one Sunday every six weeks. The six teams will have an outside/parking lot unit, door opener unit, building hosts unit, refreshment table unit and usher unit to help people feel "wowed" and welcome. The "First Impressions" team has met twice and anticipates its launch by Palm Sunday and plans to have all teams in place by Easter Sunday.

Steve encouraged everyone who had a smiling face and a great attitude to sign up to be a part of this new ministry. You can contact Steve to discover what your role can be in adding another layer of hospitality to our friendliness.

Daniel Harris presented the results of our Spiritual Growth Survey we took in October. Our 215 responses to the survey indicated some of our church's strengths in helping people grow spiritually, such as strong children's ministries and a variety of opportunities for people to serve. They also indicated some areas for improvement and from these results Daniel identified four areas of focus that can allow our church to make the greatest impact possible in moving us all forward in our relationships with God: our beliefs about the authority of the Bible, participation in small groups, encouraging personal reflection on Scripture and becoming more intentional about having meaningful conversations with non-Christians. Our staff is already in the process of prayerfully making plans for improvement in these areas.

The Council received the proposed budget from the Finance and Executive Committees. The operating budget for 2009 is \$2.7 million, a 2.5% increase over the previous year.

Recipients of Foundation Funds included the following: Northwest Texas Conference; Midland Community Agencies; Mission Trips; FUMC Programs, Ministries and Building Needs; and FUMC of Midland Foundation development programs for a total of \$222,000.

I am pleased to have our staff and lay leaders at the forefront of ministry and good decisions. We are blessed by those who lead and serve.

Don't miss this Sunday. Steve and I will begin a Lenten series: "What We Believe and Why."



**Goal:** To create WOW experiences in our church to help our guests and members know that they matter to God and us, so that they can take their next step towards Him.

**How:** We will accomplish this goal by building groups of church members that will minister to the specific needs of guests and members alike every Sunday morning. Each group will be scheduled to serve in a rotation that will require their service once every six weeks. (Approximately eight to ten times per year.)

*Team members will serve in one of the following areas. . .*

**Outside Unit (8)** – Members of this unit serve in snow, sun, rain and wind, helping people find parking spaces, greeting them, and helping them find their way into the building.

**Door Openers/Greeters (8)** – They greet guests and members at the four main entry points of the church and open the doors for them.

**Building Hosts (4)** – These men and women are strategically placed throughout the building to help people get to the right spot. The hosts would also be responsible to make sure nothing is "out of place" and everything that is needed is "in place." (ie. checking bathroom for toilet paper, keeping trash out of the hallways, etc. . .)

**Refreshment Table Attendants (4)** – They organize and serve at our two refreshment areas.

**Ushers (10)** - They distribute bulletins, help guests find seats, and collect offering for Traditional (6) and Contemporary Worship (4) services.

*Would you consider making a commitment to the First Impressions Team in one of the above areas?*

If you would like to be a part of this team or would like more information about this team contact Rev. Steve Brooks at [stevebrooks@firstmethodistmidland.com](mailto:stevebrooks@firstmethodistmidland.com) or 432.682.3701 x 225.

## Welcome back, Ms. Ollie and Thank you, Ms. Amber



Amber Hale and Ollie Kimbro

Ollie Kimbro, our nursery coordinator, has returned to her very important work this month. We are so thankful she is back with us. Ollie became ill in November and had to have two surgeries. She has worked in child care for over 30 years, with 8 years here at First Church. She has worked both in our Children's Day Out programs and our nursery through the years, becoming the nursery director in 2008.

*"Many people have asked me how I can work for so long with small children, but my answer is always, 'how can I not?' I LOVE my job. Even on a bad day a child can make it all better. The hugs they give are priceless; they are always glad to see you and they tell the best stories. Thank you to everyone for all your cards and prayers while I was ill. Hopefully, I am back on the road to a full recovery and will be able to run and play with the kids soon. I really did miss them while I was out," Ollie said.*

During Ms. Ollie's absence, we were blessed to have Amber Hale serve as nursery coordinator. Amber has been with us since June of 2008 and works in all areas of our nursery, including Sundays, Wednesdays and WOW services.

Please remember to say thank you to both of these ladies when you pass through the nursery.

## 1st Word Opportunities

Enjoy a variety of ways to worship at First Church.

### TELEVISION:

My TV 16(NOSA) 10 -10:30 a.m. Sundays  
Big 2 (KMID) 5:30-6 p.m. Sundays

### PODCAST:

[www.fumcmidland.sermonpodcasts.net](http://www.fumcmidland.sermonpodcasts.net)

### WEB (Streaming Live):

10:45 a.m. at [www.firstmethodistmidland.com](http://www.firstmethodistmidland.com)

### RADIO (Live):

11 a.m. on KWEL 1070 AM

### DVD/CD OR PRINT:

Available in the Church foyer

### SUNDAY WORSHIP:

8:30 and 10:45 a.m. in Sanctuary  
10:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall  
11 a.m. at West Campus



## COMING SUNDAY

**8:30 and 10:45 a.m. Downtown Campus Worship Service** will be in the Sanctuary featuring a message by Dr. Tim Walker beginning the Lenten Series *What We Believe and Why*.

**10:45 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service** will be in the Fellowship Hall featuring a message by Rev. Steve Brooks beginning the Lenten Series *What We Believe and Why*.

**11 a.m. West Campus Worship Service** will feature a message by Dr. Tim Walker beginning the Lenten Series *What We Believe and Why* via videocast.

## Deadlines

### Tower Times

March 13 issue deadline is March 5, 2 p.m.  
March 20 issue deadline is March 12, 2 p.m.

### Sunday Bulletin Announcements

March 8 deadline is March 3, 2 p.m.

If you have something you would like to include in the bulletin or Tower Times, contact Jana Huff, Director of Communications at [jnahuff@firstmethodistmidland.com](mailto:jnahuff@firstmethodistmidland.com).

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**Sunday, March 1** - Movie Magic - Evening of Entertainment

**Sunday, March 1** - Lent Begins

**Wednesday, March 4** - Wednesdays @ First

**Wednesday, March 4** - Dr. May's Adult Dating Class Begins

**Wednesday, March 11** - Wednesdays @ First

**Friday, March 13** - Women of Worship (W.O.W.)

**Sunday, March 15** - Featuring Mike Lewis - the "Jesus Painter"

**Wednesday, March 18** - NO Wednesdays @ First

**Wednesday, March 25** - Wednesdays @ First - New classes

**Friday, April 3** - Women of Worship (W.O.W.)

**Sunday, April 5** - Palm Sunday

**Wednesday, April 8** - Wednesdays @ First

**Wednesday, April 8** - Dr. May's Divorce Proof your Marriage Class

**Thursday April 9** - Maundy Thursday

**Sunday, April 12** - Easter Sunday

**Sunday, April 19** - Walk Thru the Bible - New Testament

## Ronald Thomas Serves 50 Years in Church Music

Ronald Thomas, a member of First United Methodist Church of Midland, will celebrate his 50 years of dedicated service in church music and Christian education on March 1, 2009. He is currently the organist of St. Paul's Anglican Church of Midland and a music director under the Board of Ministry of the Northwest Texas Conference, but Ronald Thomas has spent his life in numerous churches and musical vocations throughout Texas.

He grew up in First United Methodist Church of Midland, singing his first solo at the age of 7 in 1945 to honor his grandmother's request that he sing in the Meditation Garden. In high school, he joined the Chapel Choir and took organ and voice lesson from George L. De Hart during the summer vacation months. Ronald was active in the church and used old posting machines to record the church contributions in the financial secretary's office, but his real calling was with music.

During that time, the youth department stressed the need to find vocations that paired human need and one's abilities. Ronald came to believe in the importance of church music when he read research that showed the beliefs of those in church are based on the words they sing. Years later, while serving as director of music and education at the First United Methodist Church in Palestine, Texas, a woman told him how much the words he sung were a comfort to her in a time of need.

Spurred by his love of church and music, Ronald Thomas earned his Bachelor of Music degree from University of North Texas in Denton, a Masters of Music from University of Michigan, a Master of Sacred Music from Southern Methodist University and completed Ph. D. coursework at University of North Texas. While attending Southern Methodist University, Ronald played for legendary blind French composer and organist, André Marchal, and was humbled when Marchal's critique of his playing was that of a "true artist."

Ronald's first church job was as cantor and choir director of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Sherman in 1959 while he was working on his first degree from UNT. In July of 1962, he was the vacation organist-director of the Midland First United Methodist Church. He has served several churches and denominations in different locations around Texas and Arkansas, including chapel organist and assistant professor of music at the University of the Ozarks. His 50-year span in church music saw him act as an organist, organist-director, music director, pianist and director of music and education.

Despite his success throughout the southwest region, Ronald Thomas has not forgotten the church where his passion began, First United Methodist of Midland. Ronald is appreciative of growing up in the church where he participated in music and Christian education activities as a youth. His association with First United Methodist began with his grandparents, B. F. and Velma Haag. His parents, Conn and Addie Thomas were also members.

B.F Haag had been chairman of the board of First United Methodist Church and Velma was twice president of the women's group. His father, Conn C. Thomas worked with the finance commission and his paternal grandfather, B.C. Thomas, had been the Sunday School Superintendent of Shiro Methodist Church.

Church life is as much a part of Ronald Thomas as church music. He now sings in the Midland-Odessa Symphony Chorale, belongs to the Midland Music Teachers and to the West Texas Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, where he serves as secretary, adding more years to the 50 already dedicated to music.

## KID'S KORNER

### SAVE THE DATE



**Vacation Bible School**  
*Camp E.D.G.E.*  
June 22-25

This year's theme, *CAMP E.D.G.E.*, will take children to an extreme adventure camp where they will *Experience and Discover God Everywhere!* VBS will be held June 22-25. These four days will be an action-packed, adrenaline-filled expedition that teaches kids that their strength and might come from God.

Volunteers are still needed in many different areas. Please contact Mara Dolan at 634.8659 or [mara\\_dolan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mara_dolan@sbcglobal.net) if you would like to volunteer or have any questions.

## ADOPT A CONFIRMAND!

The 2009 Confirmation Class has begun its journey and we are looking for church members to adopt a Confirmand. This is an easy task. We just want to offer them some extra support through their journey with weekly prayer as they learn about our Christian faith and become closer to God. On Confirmation Sunday, May 3, we ask that you attend a celebration breakfast and write a card or bring a token gift. If you are interested in becoming a prayer partner please contact Leslie Goodrum at 413.8970 or [lgoodrum@esc18.net](mailto:lgoodrum@esc18.net).

## What's Happening

**Confirmation 2009:** The Journey continues with lessons on Moses presented by Dr. Tim Walker and Carol Bamford. The class also enjoyed a visit from Tim Culp, Chairperson of our Church Council, as he explained the purpose of the council and its work within our church. We've also learned more about God's Kingdom from Nancy Pannell's lesson. We have now visited all three of our First Methodist services (Traditional, Contemporary and West Campus) and continue our study on how we worship by visiting St. Ann's Catholic Church. We are in the process of making 1,000 crosses to hand out to our church family on Sunday, March 1. Please continue to pray for this group of 24 youth and their families.

**Rock Solid Kids** for 4th-5th graders met again this past Sunday. We enjoyed pizza, games in the gym and a Bible lesson by Hilda Moody. We also did a service project of preparing decorated pillow cases and small pillows and cards to be donated to Safe Place.

### Northwest Texas Conference Summer Camp

Registration Fees: Before March 2 - \$210      March 3-May 1 - \$225  
After May 1 - \$245      Volunteer Fee - \$75

Butman		Ceta Canyon	
Register at: <a href="http://www.butmancamp.org">www.butmancamp.org</a>		Register at: <a href="http://www.cetacanyon.org">www.cetacanyon.org</a>	
June		June	
7-12	Spirit Wind	8-12	New Dawn I
15-17	Young Elementary 3-4	15-19	One Way 8-9
15-19	Mid High One Way Advanced 6-8	22-26	One Way 10-12
22-26	New Dawn II	29-July 3	One Way 4-5
July		July	
6-10	Elementary One Way Advanced 4-6	6-10	One Way 6-
6-10	Sr. High One Way Advanced 9-12	13-17	Vision 10-12
13-17	G.R.A.C.E. Camp 4-6	20-24	Crossroads 7-9
		27-31	Whoz-We-R 4-6

### Joys & Concerns

as of February 23, 9 a.m.

#### MIDLAND HEALTHCARE CENTERS

Ramona Drickey (Midland Memorial Hospital)  
George Horst (Younger Center)  
Angie Graf (Mabee Center)

#### HOSPITALS (OTHER CITIES)

Jinger Hazelwood (Austin)

#### UPCOMING SURGERIES

Doc Dodson  
Peyton Abney

#### JOYS

Ethan Kyle Rybolt born February 18. Parents are Kaci and Jason Rybolt. Big brother is Zachary.

#### CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO

The family of Helen Tobias on her death.

BIBLE/TRUTH  
MARRIAGE  
ANGELS/DEMONS  
DESTINY  
JESUS/CROSS  
RESURRECTION/HOPE

## WHAT WE BELIEVE AND WHY

LENTEN SERIES  
MARCH 1 - APRIL 12

## Movie Magic

### Sunday, March 1

Evening of Entertainment

Tickets still available!



To purchase a ticket or a table contact Sharla Blair at 684.5154. Tickets are only \$15 per person and table rates are available.

Wednesdays @ First

Wednesday Evenings  
5 p.m. Meal  
6 p.m. Classes

Dr. May's Adult Single/Dating Class begins March 4. Sign up today!

More classes will start March 25. For more information on a class or to sign up for a class visit our website at [www.firstmethodistmidland.com](http://www.firstmethodistmidland.com) or contact Daniel Harris at 682.3701 x 226 or [danielharris@firstmethodistmidland.com](mailto:danielharris@firstmethodistmidland.com). Pick up a brochure with detailed class descriptions at the church office or on the Fresh Start Tables.



### Oasis Youth Ministries

6-8:30 p.m.  
Sundays

For more information on all youth activities and events contact Rev. Jay Gage at [jaygage@firstmethodistmidland.com](mailto:jaygage@firstmethodistmidland.com) or Dondi Carter at [dondicarter@firstmethodistmidland.com](mailto:dondicarter@firstmethodistmidland.com). Oasis Youth is for all youth in grades seven through 12.