

November 21st



Guest Bell Choir

“Glory Bells”

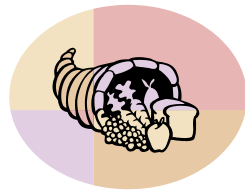
11am worship

Fellowship

Thanksgiving

Dinner

Following worship



Community

Thanksgiving

Worship Service

Faith Missionary

The Texhoma Vision

Texhoma

United Methodist Church

Rev. Rachel Parrott

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November

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**Small Churches are just the  
right size....and different**

Such was the title of a workshop held at Faith UMC in Woodward this past Friday. This workshop was one of a series of workshops offered around the Oklahoma Conference Small Membership Church Commission. The discussion leader was Rev David Ray who has served small churches in both rural and urban areas across the US and is currently serving a church in Maine.

The two main points discussed were (1) small churches are the right size to do everything that God calls church to do and be and (2) are different because of numbers. While these may seem obvious, they are easily forgotten.

There are four basic things that a church is to do and to be. First, we are

called to be a community of worship, a community that engages in scripture together. Second, a church is called to make disciples, to mentor and nurture one another in Christian living. A faith community is where we practice and experience being Christian. Third, a church is called to care for one another. This area is something that small churches do especially well. Finally, a church is called into mission, to go outside the doors and make a difference. Such is the call of all churches regardless of size.

Jesus did promise that when even two or three are gathered in His name He will be there. Rev Burris suggested that perhaps we could say that Jesus will especially be there within those small gatherings. There is a reality, an intimacy, a quality of relationship that is made possible in small gatherings not seen in crowds.

In small churches everyone is needed. You can never just be a spectator. The work of the laity is especially important in small churches. Our congregations need the gifts of everyone, there is no getting around that wonderful fact. In small churches everything is personal, everyone matters. Small churches are wonderful gifts to the Church and to the world. After all, precious things come in small packages.

## **Lydia Patterson Institute**

In the United Methodist Church, each congregation is connected to the work of the UM church worldwide in many ways. One way is through apportionment giving. Apportionments are built into our church budget. In our giving, we become personally involved in ministries close to home and far away. The Texhoma Vision will be running a series in which we feature one ministry our congregation supports through apportionments in each issue.

During our Charge Conference in October, District Superintendent David Burris spoke of his experience with one of the ministries we support through our apportionments: the Lydia Patterson Institute.

In 1913, a Methodist Laywoman, Lydia Patterson, noticed that many of the young Hispanics in the barrio had no schools to attend. Working through the Women's Missionary Society she began setting up schools in the homes of Mexican Methodists.

Today her vision lives as the Lydia Patterson Institute (LPI) provide education opportunities for children living in poverty some in El Paso and the majority from Ciudad Juarez. LPI provides a challenging academic

environment that nurtures students in Christian values.

LPI is known for outstanding student achievement. Over 400 students are currently students at LPI. Graduation rates exceed 95% for entering freshmen. Over 90% of graduates continue their education at college. The last graduating class earned 2.1 million dollars in competitive scholarships.

The Lydia Patterson Institute remains faithful to providing quality education and intentional spiritual nurture in a diverse and dynamic urban border area. Even with the challenges that El Paso and Ciudad Juarez now face, LPI continues to serve God as they offer the miracle of education that changes lives.

## **Sunday of Thanksgiving**

November 21<sup>st</sup> promises to be an exciting Sunday. Joining us in worship bringing their gift of song will be Glory Bells one of the bell choirs at Victory Memorial UMC in Guymon.

Following worship, the feast begins. Our annual Thanksgiving Fellowship dinner always brings wonderful food and fantastic fellowship.

Our Sunday of thanksgiving does not end there, but hold even more blessing. Faith Missionary Church is hosting the

Texhoma Community Thanksgiving Worship Service that evening.

Make plans to worship and fellowship as our community gives thanks this Sunday.

## **Texhoma UMC on the Web**

Our church now has a webpage! Check out the pictures or the events calendar.

We are continuing to add content and if there is anything that you would like to see please let us know.

Go to [www.texhomaumc.org](http://www.texhomaumc.org)

## **Texhoma Christmas Effort**

The Christmas Effort for 2010 is beginning right now. Each year the Christmas Effort gathers food items to be distributed to households in our community that could really use our help and support.

Donation boxes and jars are starting to appear at the town's schools, churches and many businesses. Non-perishable food items and monetary donations for the perishable items can be placed in any designated location.

Donations in the jars and boxes by December 15<sup>th</sup> are sure to be distributed along with your wishes for a Merry Christmas.



November 21<sup>st</sup>

11am Worship

Musical guest: "Glory Bells"

Noon: Fellowship Dinner

7pm: Community Thanksgiving  
Worship at Faith Missionary

November 28<sup>th</sup>

11am Worship

Hanging of the Greens



December 12<sup>th</sup>

Community Choir Presents  
"The Promised Hope...starts with a  
baby's first cry" 7pm

December 14<sup>th</sup> Ladies Luncheon

UMW Hosting noon  
All ladies welcomed!

December 24<sup>th</sup>

6pm  
Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service