



A&M  
United Methodist Church

# Messenger

*Sharing the heart of Christ.*

(979)846-8731

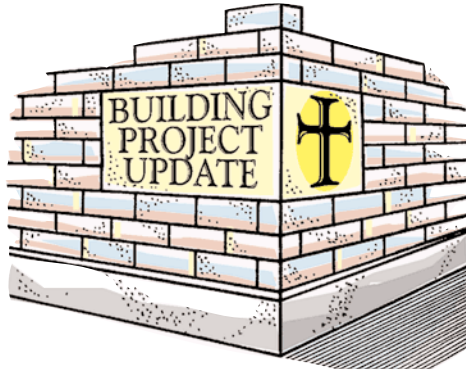
Email: [office@am-umc.org](mailto:office@am-umc.org)

[www.am-umc.org](http://www.am-umc.org)

January 13, 2006

## CLC Update

There is not much to report on the new Christian Life Center since our last newsletter. The holidays have slowed some of the progress being made toward occupying and completing the Christian Life Center. Access to the building was not gained by the end of the year as we had hoped because there are still some significant details that must be worked out with all parties. We hope to have a substantial update at the printing of our next newsletter. Please continue to keep this matter and the Building Committee in your prayers as we continue to grow into the ministries to which God is calling us.



## Annex Update

One of the more positive elements of the ministry of A&M United Methodist Church is the recent acquisition of the property previously housing the ministries of Our Savior's Lutheran Church, just north of our paved parking lot. Our Savior's Lutheran Church relocated to the Woodcreek area in South College Station in November, and A&M United Methodist Church purchased the property in April of last year. This space will significantly address some of the limitations incurred during our construction process. It adds an extra Fellowship Hall and worship space to our physical plant.

We are currently honoring agreements with United Campus Ministries and Hansarang Korean Presbyterian Church, who use these facilities on a limited basis.

The property is now being referred to as the Annex, so be on the lookout for announcements related to events being held in these "new to us" facilities.

## Small Groups 2006

Small Groups have begun once more in the homes of many of our members. These groups meet for 90 minutes, and most of them are sermon-based small groups, which means that the subject for discussion was introduced in Sunday's sermon. This session of small groups is beginning with a discussion of *The Five Love Languages*. Small groups meet on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings, and Monday mornings. To find the group that best fits your schedule and location, please call Debbie Keim at the church (846-8731) or e-mail [office@am-umc.org](mailto:office@am-umc.org). This is a vital ministry in the life of A&M UMC, and it is our goal for every member of this great church to be involved in a small group where everyone knows your name.

**Small group hosts and facilitators:** you may find some valuable resources including lesson plans and sermon transcripts on our small group resource page (<http://www.am-umc.org/smgrp/resources.htm>) or simply go to our website ([www.am-umc.org](http://www.am-umc.org)) and follow the path.



*Love Is In  
The Air*

## *Valentine Banquet & Silent Auction*

*Friday, February 10, 2006*

*6:30 p.m.*

*Fellowship Hall*

*Tickets \$10 per person*

*By Reservation Only*

*846-8731, ext. 226*

### Menu

*Herb Roasted Pork Loin*

*Seasoned Potatoes*

*Spring Mix Salad*

*Garlic Bread*

*Strawberry Shortcake*

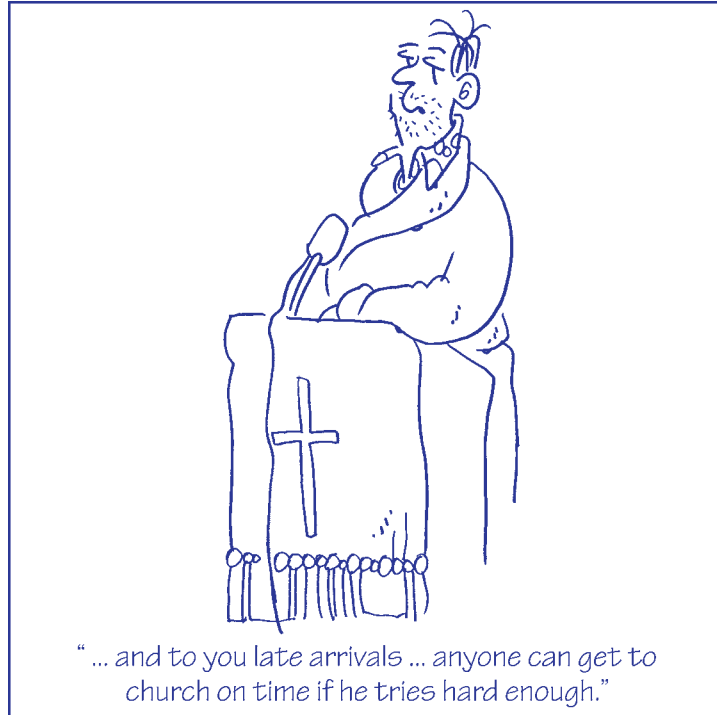
*Tea & Coffee*

*Childcare by reservation only*

*\$5.00 per child*

*(Menu for children: pizza, ice cream,  
movies, & crafts)*

*All proceeds will go to the  
Youth Mission Fund*



## Mark Your Calendar

### **Women’s Celebration - This Saturday**

This Saturday, January 14, 10:00 a.m. to noon in the Fellowship Hall. The guest speaker will be Dr. Nancy Dickey, M.D. Complimentary pastries and coffee will be served. Nursery by reservation, 846-8731.

### **UMYF Parents’ Night - This Sunday**

All parents of teenagers are invited this Sunday night at 6:00 in the Annex Building (former Lutheran church).

### **Life Line Screening - February 27**

Stroke is America’s third leading killer and the #1 cause for nursing home admissions. Unfortunately, half of all stroke victims have no warning signs. Life Line Screening will be at A&M UMC on Monday, February 27, to screen for carotid artery plaque buildup, abdominal aortic aneurysm, peripheral arterial disease, and osteoporosis. The procedure is painless and non-invasive. Pre-registration is required by calling 1-800-324-1851.

The cost is \$45 for each vascular screening, or \$109 for all three. The osteoporosis screen is \$35. All four screenings cost \$129.

*Insurance Note:* At the present time, Medicare does not cover the cost of these screening services. Life Line Screening does not file insurance claims.

### **Women’s Retreat - March 3 & 4**

The guest speaker will be Marty Sholars, professional counselor, speaker, and author. Come discover how God longs to heal and transform you so that you may live life more abundantly. The retreat begins Friday, March 3, at 4:00 p.m. and ends Saturday, March 4, at 4:00 p.m. at Messiah’s Ranch. The cost is \$40, scholarships available.

### **A Weekend to Remember - March 17-19**

Have you ever wondered what God’s purpose is for your marriage? From engaged couples to empty-nesters, it’s never too early or too late to make your marriage flourish. Whether you’re simply looking for a deeper purpose for your life together or hovering on the brink of disaster, God has a plan filled with hope and love for you!

For more than a million people, the Weekend to Remember conference has been a turning point in their marriage. On March 17-19, Family Life’s Weekend to Remember conference will be coming to Bryan/College Station. Special group rates of \$79 per person are available when five or more couples register by March 1. Hotel stay is not required. To learn more, visit [weekendtoremember.com](http://weekendtoremember.com) or stop by the InformationTable.

For group rate information, please contact Shawn or Anne Turner at 696-7922 or [turners@tca.net](mailto:turners@tca.net).



## Kip's Korner

by Rev. Kip Gilts

### A New Start

*"The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a New Covenant... I will write it on their hearts."* Jeremiah 31:31-34

When Chelsea was only about four years old I was serving as an associate pastor and preached only occasionally. I had been invited to speak at an Advent Service at a nearby church, and after the service, my daughter asked when I would preach again. The day after Christmas was my next opportunity. She then asked what I was going to preach about. This was weeks away and I had not thought it all through, so I asked my little sidekick if she had any suggestions. She paused only briefly and then beamed as if she had just solved a great mystery.

"I've got it!" she said. "Christmas is over. Next comes Easter!"

I have never forgotten that brief conversation. I wonder if that was one of the conversations of heaven. Indeed the miracle of the incarnation was the beginning of Jesus' work. Easter would be the culmination of the New Covenant. We began 2006 with a special covenant service that celebrated the new and different covenant that we have through Jesus Christ. Just look at all that is new and different in the New Covenant:

- The New Covenant is fresh, replacing a covenant that had been so often broken.

- The New Covenant is enacted differently than by annual sacrifices; Jesus' work would offer forgiveness once and for all.

- The New Covenant is written on the hearts of believers and kept in our souls rather than being recorded on tablets of stone and kept in an Ark of the Covenant.

- The New Covenant leads people to know God rather than simply knowing about God.

- The New Covenant completely



January 8, 2006

#### Contributions

Offering	\$14,221.28
Drafts	\$15,405.00
MTD	\$40,242.29
YTD	\$40,242.29

#### Expenses

MTD	\$51,488.99
YTD	\$51,488.99

#### ATTENDANCE

8:30 a.m.	301
9:45 a.m.	37
10:50 a.m.	284
TOTAL	622



The Weekday School would like to send a BIG thank you to the D.M.A. group for their donation to the school. The Friendship and Sunshine classes sang for the D.M.A. on December 7. The children look forward to this event every year and are looking forward to next year!

### Kip's Korner cont'd

cleanses the believers whose iniquities are forgiven and whose sins are forgotten.

Begin the year by thanking the God of Christmas and Easter for the New Covenant.

Sincerely,  
Kip

## Prayer Corner

**Prayer of Healing for Jean Baker** (St. Joseph's), Karen Thomas (at home), Virginia Johnson (Sheridan on Rock Prairie), and Julie Gause (The Med).

**Prayers of Comfort for Ruby Austin**, whose husband, Ernie, died on December 31.

**Prayers of Thanksgiving for the births of Caroline and Sydney Snell**, twin grandchildren of David and Anne Brooks; and Emma Catharine West, granddaughter of Jean and Make McDermott born January 5.

Please keep our troops around the world, as well as their families at home, in your prayers.

## "Bridge the Gap" Gifts

"Bridge the Gap" gifts are given by partners in ministry at A&M UMC who are bridging the gap between what is in God's storehouse and what is needed for ministry at A&M UMC. Gifts can be given by catching up on current pledges and by going above and beyond these estimates of giving. Several members wish to remember or honor a loved one through this gift of love.

These gifts have been received.

#### IN MEMORY OF:

Polly Kent, Margaret Mims, Rev. Erskine Riveire, Alice C. Stubbs, Walter Parker, and Michael D. "Mike" Jones by The Raymond Callaway Jones Family

Fred Sicilio, by Mary Sicilio

Earl Bennett

#### IN HONOR OF:

Everyone who helped them when their house burned, by J. C. and Ann Grady

Lawrence and Mary Margaret Smith, David and Gail Marion, and Bill and Linda Marr, by Darcy Tammen

The Chancel Choir, by Don House Savannah Gilmore and Sadie Larsen, by Bob and Nancy Gilmore

The ministers and staff of A&M UMC, by Carol A. Tatum

#### TO THE GLORY OF GOD BY:

Joe and Carrie West

Shawn and Anne Turner

Jay and Judy Brewer

Nelson D. and Annie Bishop Durst



# Mexico Mission

## College/Adult Mexico Mission Trip Informational Meeting

This May 15-22 A&M UMC will be sending college and adult missionaries to Juarez, Mexico, to spread the gospel through new home construction and Vacation Bible School. No construction or Spanish speaking skills are necessary to participate - only a heart to share Christ's love with others!

If you would like to find out more about this opportunity, please join us for a brief informational meeting on **Sunday, January 22, at noon in Room 211**. If you can't be at the meeting, contact Lance at 846-8731 or [collegenews@am-umc.org](mailto:collegenews@am-umc.org). We need YOU to make our mission trip the very best it can be!

## Let the Fundraisers Begin!

As you know, in order to pay for the Mexico Mission Trip, we must have fundraisers! Mark your calendar for these dates:

- January 29 Breakfast tacos, hot and fresh, will be available during the Sunday School hour.
- February 26 Hamburger Lunch. Eat in or take out. Tickets on sale February 12.
- March 26 Tamale Lunch. Eat in or take out. Advance orders will be taken beginning March 12.
- April 1 Hire-a-Hand Workday. Have us complete your indoor chores or yardwork.
- April 30 Breakfast tacos again!

## Parents' Nite Out January 27

The first Parents' Nite Out of the new year is on January 27! This is a great opportunity for parents to enjoy some much-needed time together or with friends! Children ages six months through sixth grade are eligible to participate. The cost is \$10 per child, or a \$25 maximum per family.

Registration forms are now available at the Information Table or online at [www.am-umc.org](http://www.am-umc.org). Planned activities will include games, crafts, snack supper, and a movie. All proceeds will benefit A&M UMC College Missions. If you have questions contact Carol Bonds at 846-8731, or [cbonds@am-umc.org](mailto:cbonds@am-umc.org).

Future PNOs are scheduled for :

- February 24
- March 24
- April 28

Thanks to all the families who helped support A&M UMC College Ministries through the fall semester Parents' Nite Out events, over 60 children participated! We have raised \$975 to date. This money will go directly to College Ministries' mission projects.

## New Session of Journey To Christ Begins

A Fresh Start for the New Year: Spiritual growth is not gained by drifting along. Start 2006 with a semester of intentional discipleship to enhance your spiritual growth. Journey to Christ offers you a group for encouragement and accountability as you put your faith into practice. Here is what is included in this spiritual formation opportunity for adults:

- Once a week meeting on Mondays at 6:30 p.m.
- Begin with fellowship supper
- Hear a brief faith story
- Reflect on a passage of scripture in small groups of six or seven to consider what God is saying to you through it.

Back in the larger group, consider some aspect of Christian faith or practice; ask questions; get answers.

Daily: Have regular time for personal prayer and Bible reading.

Once a Week: Talk with your sponsor by phone, in person, or e-mail.

Worship on Sunday at the Service of your choice: 8:30, 9:45, or 10:50 a.m.

Once a month: Engage in service to one of God's people who is in distress or poverty.

Journey to Christ begins Monday, January 16. Enroll now and bring a friend. Contact Coordinator, Guy Pry, with questions or to enroll by e-mail, [gpry@tca.net](mailto:gpry@tca.net), or by phone, 696-4420.



Are you retired? Can you count? Do you have one day free in April?

Suzy Stubblefield is helping with the 2006 Coalition for the Homeless Survey/Count, and she is seeking volunteers to help her. The counts will be done on Monday, April 3, from 1:00 to 8:00 p.m. There will be a training session in March. If you are interested in helping, please contact Suzy at 776-0028 or [suzstub@msn.com](mailto:suzstub@msn.com).