



A&M
United Methodist Church

Messenger

Sharing the heart of Christ.

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February 24, 2006



Ash Wednesday Prayer Vigil



Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 1. We will have a 12-hour prayer vigil from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. This will be a time to lift up the needs of the congregation, pray over your own concerns, or pray over the Word. We are taking prayer requests now. You may fill out the request card in the bulletin this Sunday and return it in the offering plate. There is also a sign-up sheet on the Information Table. Please take the time to sign up for a 30-minute prayer time on March 1.

Soup and Sermon

This year we are planning something a little different for our Sunday evenings in Lent. We have invited our retired pastors (we have six of them) to give a message on Sunday evenings following a soup supper and special music. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall at 5:45 p.m. every Sunday evening during Lent. The first Sunday in Lent is March 5, and the Reverend Bob Waters will be the speaker.

Mark your calendars now! You won't want to miss a single one of our "preachers from the pews."



A Weekend to Remember

In our culture today, there's no shortage of ideas on what makes marriage work. But God's Word still contains the best advice for restoring hope and regaining the thrill of a lifelong partnership. On March 17-19, FamilyLife's Weekend to Remember marriage conference will be coming to Bryan/College Station and will give you the opportunity to:

- Explore God's purpose for bringing you together in the first place
- Understand the role hardship plays in making every marriage stronger
- Make meaningful progress toward resolving past hurts
- Learn to recognize hidden strengths of your marriage that disguise themselves as obstacles
- Discover a brand-new appreciation for your spouse
- Create an individualized plan for a lasting, healthy marriage
- Develop an exciting new outlook for your life together

Hurricane Relief Mission Trip March 11-17, 2006

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita will be remembered as some of the most devastating natural disasters in the history of the United States. They left a path of destruction 200 miles wide and 100 miles deep, but in other ways they cut far more deeply into the heart of the nation. Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama bore the brunt of the devastation. Hundreds of lives were lost, millions of citizens displaced, and damage is running well into the billions of dollars. Many lost everything. How will the church respond?

Federal, state, and local response organizations are overwhelmed. Stretched thin on resources, government

response can only take us so far. Help is needed now and long into the future. The church has the skills and the resources to respond effectively in the short term and rebuild our communities in the long term. Now more than ever before, the church is positioned to provide hope where there is none. And so we must respond.

The entire country has been impacted, but nowhere more personally than the Gulf Coast States. Many people who lived there are pessimistic that their lives will ever be the same. This storm forever changed the feeling of safety they once enjoyed. There is emo-

See HURRICANE page 3

Register today and join other couples in our church who have found this conference to be transforming for their marriages! Special group rates of \$79 per person are available when five or more couples register by March 1. Hotel stay is encouraged but not required. To learn more, visit weekendtoremember.com or stop by the Information Table for a brochure.

For questions, childcare requests, or to be included in the group rate, please contact Shawn or Anne Turner at 696-7922 or turners@tca.net.



Prayer Partners Needed for Youth Mission Trip March 11–17

If you would like to be a prayer partner to youth and adults going on the Mexico Mission trip, please contact Vickey Tesh in the Youth Office (846-8731 or youth@am-umc.org).

Thank you!



On the
Right Path

How has faith affected your life, and how does it influence your desire to give?

My faith is the most important thing in my life. Without it, I would be nothing. I have

endured many obstacles in my life since I accepted Christ as my Lord and Savior at the age of 30. With each obstacle, He has taught me how strong His love is for me, and if I trust and obey He will always lead and take care of me.

I know that without my gifts the church cannot survive with the great ministries that it provides. It is a privilege to be able to give to the Lord. The Bible tells me that it is what we are to do as the body of Christ.

I believe that it is our obligation as members to give. Without our gifts, our church cannot survive. I know some people can give more than others, but everyone should be able to give something.

Jeanice Matthews, member for three years.

Communion Rail Offering Focus for March



Our communion rail offering will go towards the ministry of Diane Wimberley, who is serving in La Paz, Bolivia. Most of her work is with pastors of the Bolivian churches. She conducts workshops, teaching them pastoral care, leadership, conflict transformation, self-esteem issues, integrated health issues, and many more matters that relate to the Bolivian people. For the past three years, we have been a covenant church with Diane, and we continue to support her through our monetary gifts. She has been serving the Methodist church in Bolivia since 2003. Please consider your generous gift to this ministry of the United Methodist Church on Sunday, March 5.

—Your Mission Committee Team

"It is a privilege to be able to give to the Lord."

—Jeanice Matthews

Communion for the Homebound

Our membership care team will take communion to our homebound members on Sunday, March 5. If you, or someone you know, would like to receive communion at home, please call Laurinda Kwiatkowski in the church office at 846-8731.



Kip's Korner

by Rev. Kip Gilts

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 1:4-7

I have had the opportunity to brag on this congregation a lot in the last month. The bishop called a meeting of the ordained elders a few weeks ago at Lakeview Conference Center. When preachers get together, the question asked most often is, "How are things going at _____?" There are two general responses: (1) "Alright" [This means, "they could be better, and I don't want to talk about it"]; and (2) "Great" [This means, "things are going really well, and I'd love to talk as long as you care to listen"]. To those who were not fleet of foot, I told story after story of this church's faith and faithfulness. I talked about small groups, our vision path, quotes that have been submitted in response to an e-mail I sent out a few weeks ago, and so many other celebratory elements of ministry at A&M United Methodist Church.

Last week, I went to a District Clergy Retreat at Camp Allen. Once again, I had the chance to do as Paul often did when asked about the churches he served: I bragged without restraint. You would too if you had been reading what I have. Here is a just a sample. You'll find more quotes peppered throughout this newsletter and the hallways of A&M UMC.

• *You display what a church is, a body of brothers and sisters in Christ openly welcoming and encouraging.* Larissa Emerson, University Student.

• *The people of our church are great, and being in this atmosphere is very uplifting.* Laura Blackerby, Junior High Youth.

• *How does your faith influence your desire to give? – There has been a tran-*



February 19, 2006

Contributions

Offering	\$9,736.21
MTD	\$77,999.57
YTD	\$154,543.53
Carryunder	(21,442.88)

Expenses

MTD	\$77,436.24
YTD	\$172,462.01

Wesley Foundation

\$558.50

Kip's Korner cont'd

sition from obligation to opportunity. Mike Workman, member for 26 years.

• *Practicing consistent, regular giving is a valuable spiritual discipline in and of itself.* Catharine Inbody Corder, member for 6 years.

• *If you take the time to accept an invitation from the pastors and find a small group, you will find this to be a wonderful congregation.* Edward Funck, member for 6 months.

• *Whenever I need someone to talk to, there is someone there for me.* Porscha Buck, Senior High Youth.

I, like the apostle Paul, give thanks to my God always for you.

Sincerely,
Kip

Prayer Corner

Prayers of Healing for Elaine Waggoner, Yvalee Jones, Diane Welch (all recovering at home); Kenneth Evans (Austin), Virginia Johnson (Sheridan on Rock Prairie), and Bill Hawthorne (St. Joseph's Manor).

Prayers of Comfort for Beverly Gracia, whose grandmother, Hazel Reaves, died on February 9.

Hamburger Fundraiser

This Sunday, Feb. 26

\$6 per person

(Includes burger, chips, drink, AND dessert!)

CLC Update

Discussions continue to circulate around what modifications need to be made to the slab in the Great Hall. The engineers involved in this project have reached a consensus opinion that the current slab needs to be replaced. Considerations of the finished flooring system and protective measures against any further soil expansion are the current issues being addressed. Continue to keep the Building Committee and all parties in your prayers as we move toward new ministries in the Christian Life Center.

Commitment Sunday is March 5th



Commitment Sunday for "On the Right Path," A&M UMC's annual stewardship campaign, is Sunday, March 5th. In addition to bringing our Commitment Cards to the altar during communion, there will be a time of **fellowship and refreshments in the Great Hall of the Christian Life Center.** That's right, even though we still have some work pending that prevents us from moving into these facilities, we will be able to host this brunch from 9:30 to 12:30. Come over to the CLC, enjoy some refreshments (including kolaches provided by Kolache Rolfs) and tour this beautiful building as you envision the exciting future to which A&M UMC is heading.

Activities at A&M United Methodist Church

Sunday, February 26, 2006

- 8:30 a.m. *Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 9:40 a.m. *Sunday School for all ages
- 9:45 a.m. *Contemporary Worship, Sanctuary
- 10:50 a.m. *Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Hamburger Fundraiser begins serving, Fellowship Hall**
- 12:00 p.m. Youth Council, Parlor
- 5:00 p.m. College Men's Bible Study, Room 211
- 5:00 p.m. College Women's Bible Study, Room 219
- 5:00 p.m. Youth Choir, Choir Room
- 6:00 p.m. United Methodist Youth, Annex
- 6:30 p.m. Jesus in the Gospels, Room 202
- 6:30 p.m. Prayer Team, Parlor
- 8:00 p.m. AA & Al-Anon, Rooms 204 & 209

Monday, February 27, 2006

- 8:00 a.m. Life Line Screening, Fellowship Hall**
- 10:00 a.m. Jesus, the One and Only, Parlor
- 6:00 p.m. Philos: International Students, Room 219
- 6:30 p.m. Christian Believer, Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. Journey to Christ, Annex
- 7:00 p.m. Ignite: College Freshmen, Room 211

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

- 5:30 p.m. Praise Band Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 6:30 p.m. Disciple I, Parlor
- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, Third Floor
- 7:00 p.m. Canterbury Bells, Choir Room

Wednesday, March 1, 2006 - Ash Wednesday

- 6:00 a.m. Prayer Vigil begins, Sanctuary**
- 9:00 a.m. Disciple III, Carol Patton's house
- 10:30 a.m. Weekday School Chapel, Sanctuary
- 11:30 a.m. DMA, Fellowship Hall**
- 3:45 p.m. Children's Choirs, Fellowship Hall
- 5:00 p.m. Children's Tool Time, Room 215
- 5:00 p.m. Confirmation Class, Fellowship Hall
- 5:45 p.m. First Place, Room 210B
- 6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service, Sanctuary**
- 6:30 p.m. Youth Bible Studies, Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Al-Anon, Annex
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

Thursday, March 2, 2006

- 12:00 p.m. Emmaus Reunion Group, Parlor
- 5:30 p.m. University Choir, Choir Room
- 6:30 p.m. College Dinner, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Coventry Handbells, Choir Room
- 7:00 p.m. Gateway Worship for college students, Sanctuary

Friday, March 3, 2006

- 4:00 p.m. Women's Retreat begins at Messiah's Ranch**
- 9:00 p.m. College Barn Dance**

Sunday, March 5, 2006

- 8:30 a.m. *Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 9:40 a.m. *Sunday School for all ages
- 9:45 a.m. *Contemporary Worship, Sanctuary
- 10:50 a.m. *Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 4:00 p.m. Youth Mexico Mission Trip, Fellowship Hall**
- 4:00 p.m. Weekday School Board, Room 213
- 5:00 p.m. College Men's Bible Study, Room 211
- 5:00 p.m. College Women's Bible Study, Room 219
- 5:00 p.m. Youth Choir, Choir Room
- 5:45 p.m. Soup 'n' Sermon, Fellowship Hall**
- 6:00 p.m. United Methodist Youth, Annex
- 6:30 p.m. Jesus in the Gospels, Room 202
- 6:30 p.m. Prayer Team, Parlor
- 7:00 p.m. Finance, Fellowship Hall
- 8:00 p.m. AA & Al-Anon, Rooms 204 & 209

Monday, March 6, 2006

- 10:00 a.m. Jesus, the One and Only, Parlor
- 6:00 p.m. Philos: International Students, Room 219
- 6:30 p.m. Christian Believer, Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. Journey to Christ, Annex
- 7:00 p.m. Ignite: College Freshmen, Room 211

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

- 9:30 a.m. United Methodist Women, Parlor**
- 5:30 p.m. Praise Band Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 6:30 p.m. Disciple I, Parlor
- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, Third Floor
- 7:00 p.m. Canterbury Bells, Choir Room

Wednesday, March 8, 2006

- 9:00 a.m. Disciple III, Carol Patton's house
- 10:30 a.m. Weekday School Chapel, Sanctuary
- 3:45 p.m. Children's Choirs, Fellowship Hall
- 5:00 p.m. Children's Tool Time, Room 215
- 5:00 p.m. Confirmation Class, Fellowship Hall
- 5:45 p.m. First Place, Room 210B
- 6:30 p.m. Financial Peace University, Room 204
- 6:30 p.m. Youth Bible Studies, Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Al-Anon, Annex
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

Thursday, March 9, 2006

- 12:00 p.m. Emmaus Reunion Group, Parlor
- 5:30 p.m. University Choir, Choir Room
- 6:30 p.m. College Dinner, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Coventry Handbells, Choir Room
- 6:30 p.m. WDS Parent Advisory Mtg., Parlor
- 7:00 p.m. Gateway Worship for college students, Sanctuary

Friday, March 10, 2006

- 5:00 p.m. Youth pack for mission trip, Annex

Saturday, March 11, 2006

- 7:00 a.m. Youth leave for Mexico**

*Childcare provide

HURRICANE cont'd from page 1

tional trauma for tens of thousands ... and yet life continues for them as it must.

On March 11-17, 2006, our church will send a mission team to Pass Christian, MS, in the heart of the damage. Using this location as our base, we will work daily in the disaster zone to help those hardest hit by the catastrophe. We will help the elderly and the poor get back into their homes, and we'll repair damaged church buildings.

The people we will serve within the disaster zone have been laboring day and night to reach out to those affected by Katrina, and we hope to provide encouragement and the much-needed practical assistance it takes to get them back into their homes. We will be prepared to work hard, sleep well, and make friends with the people of Pass Christian. We would like for you to join us over Spring Break as A&M UMC becomes the church in action to God's

people in the South. It's an amazing experience—one you won't soon forget.

We would greatly value your participation in this effort through your time or your financial gifts. If you are interested in going on this trip with us on March 11-17 or making a donation to the trip, please contact Lance Richards at 846-8731 or college-news@am-umc.org. We need your help to make this trip possible! Thanks and God Bless!