



A&M  
United Methodist Church

# Messenger

*Sharing the heart of Christ.*

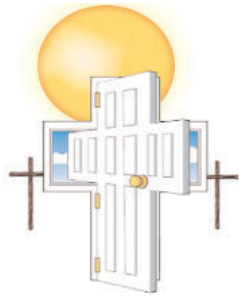
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April 21, 2006

## Easter 2006: A Second Chance Church Conference on April 23



For the first time in 10 years, we had all of our Easter activities in Northgate rather than hosting "Easter at the Creek." We knew the moment we made the decision that the weather on Easter would be picture perfect (call it Murphy's Hunch). Nevertheless, it was an extraordinary day. Special thanks goes out to the many people who made this such a celebrative day at A&M United Methodist Church. Please be sure to thank our Steering Team for "Easter 2006: A Second Chance" – Barbara Seals, Deb Kellstedt, Jon Bennett, David & Linda Brochu, Tammy Gilts, Reba Ragsdale, Fred & Judy Smeins, Kara

Socol, Ben Winkle, Priscilla Wright, and an amazing church staff, all of whom worked tirelessly to make Easter 2006 a wonderful day of worshiping our Risen Savior.

## Small Groups Session III April 23rd – May 27th

There is a growing ministry at A&M UMC that is having a powerful impact on this church. Home Small Groups are caring for people, inviting guests, discussing the Bible, and sharing food and friendship in marvelous ways.

You will want to be a part of Small Groups III, which will last from April 23rd to May 27th. This is only a five-week session, so if you've been wanting to see what this new thing happening at your church is all about, sign up now. The sermon series on which the small groups will focus is "A Strategy for Ministry." This series of sermons will explore the strategy that A&M UMC has adopted as our game plan for being a church. Every church has basically the same mandate. We have described that in the following way, "A&M United Methodist Church exists to invite and equip followers of Jesus Christ." We seek to do that through ministries of integrity, which we refer to as the "5 I's of Ministry" at A&M UMC.

- **Invest** – Develop authentic relationships with persons not connected to a Christ-centered congregation.
- **Invite** – Extend an invitation to someone not a part of a Christ-centered congregation to experience A&M UMC.
- **Include** – Participate in inspiring congregational worship experiences.
- **Involve** – Join a faith-forming small group.
- **Implement** – Discover, develop, and deploy one's spiritual and financial gifts in ministry.
- **Invest** – Return the investment by investing in the lives of others.

Join us for Small Group Session III. To enroll in a small group, to open your home to host a home Small Group, or to facilitate a small group (lesson plans will be provided), simply call the church office (846-8731) or e-mail Debbie Keim at [office@am-umc.org](mailto:office@am-umc.org). Contact us today. You will be glad you did.

There will be a called Church Conference on Sunday, April 23, at 5:00 p.m. to elect officers for the year running from June 1, 2006, through May 31, 2007. A Church Council meeting will follow.

All church members are invited to attend.

## CLC Update

What an exciting Sunday it was to be in the Christian Life Center for Easter! It was truly a day of hope. Obviously, we still have the outstanding issue of correcting the problem of a heaving slab. The architect has been charged with determining the best solution for replacing the slab and installing a floor that meets our expectations of being attractive and functional. It is a beautiful building, and having tasted a day in it has only increased our appetite to expand our ministries to the new Christian Life Center.



## VBS

**Registration begins April 30!**

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL is coming June 26–30, 5:30–8:30 p.m. Our theme this year is "Son Treasure Island." We need LOTS of volunteers to make the week of activities run smoothly. Registration for children will begin April 30! Volunteers may sign up at the table in the hallway this Sunday.

# Easter 2006 – It was wonderful!



Children's activities on Saturday



Look at all the pretty girls in their Easter dresses!

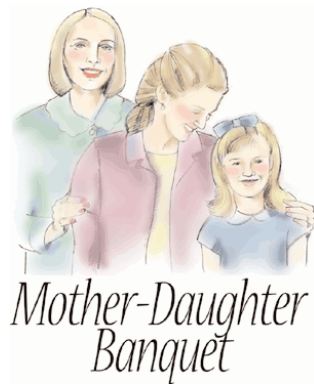


Skit at the 11:00 service in the CLC



A Full House at 8:30 & 10:30

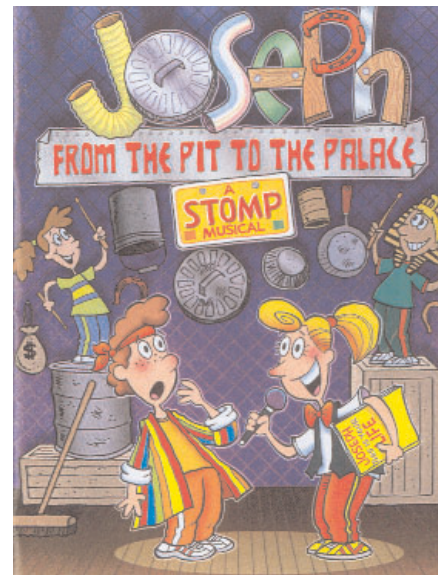
## Mother/Daughter Banquet May 11, 6:30 p.m.



Celebration Women's Ministry is sponsoring a churchwide mother/daughter banquet on Thursday, May 11, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The Rev. Laurinda Kwiatkowski will speak, and the dinner will be catered by Mi Cocina Mexican Restaurant. Please mark your calendar now and invite your mother, daughter, grandmother, granddaughter, best friend,

neighbor, etc. You don't have to be related; invite them just because you feel like it!

For more information, e-mail Tammy Gilts at [tgilts@yahoo.com](mailto:tgilts@yahoo.com).



## Sunday, April 30, 5:30 p.m.

The joyful noise children's choir will present the story of Joseph in a musical setting on Sunday afternoon, April 30, at 5:30. The choir will trace the life of Joseph from the time he was sold by his brothers into slavery until he was given leadership in Egypt. Once again, we learn that God has plans for our lives and is working for our good . . . even though the present circumstances sometimes seem very bleak.

**Mark Your Calendar!**  
**Called Church Conference**  
**Sunday, April 23, 5:00 p.m.**



## Kip's Korner

by Rev. Kip Gilts

### Hope

It is just one word, but what a difference this word makes in our lives and in our world. Look at it. It is a small word, just four letters making one syllable. Whisper it. It takes so little breath to utter, but what would one day look like without it? We found the answer to that question this past week. "Were you there when they crucified my Lord?" the old spiritual asks several times and then responds, "Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they crucified my Lord?" Yes, we were there. Sometimes we want to block it out, claim that we had nothing to do with it. But deep down we know better. We know that he was there because we were there. Our shortcomings, our rebellion, our guilt and ceaseless shame drove him to that cross. We were there, and when he died all hope died. All day Saturday hope lay buried in a tomb, sealed in a grave—and nobody even whispered that tiny word.

Oh, but early Sunday morning something extraordinary occurred. Hope sprang forth, like never before. Hope emerged from the darkness of utter hopelessness. Now that is a hope worth holding onto.

There are Dark Friday experiences that come into our lives. Hope dies and is buried, and we are convinced that it will never be seen again. But take a walk with me in the garden. Look! The stone has been rolled away – hope. Get in the boat with me early in the morning and let's fish the Sea of Galilee. Look! There on the shore, Someone is calling out to you – hope. Gather around the table with me and watch as Someone enters the room effortlessly and takes His place at the table – hope.

Easter 2006: A Second Chance is over, but look at what has stayed behind – hope. Such a small word, but oh the power it holds for our lives!

*Happy Easter!!*  
Kip



## Health Kits

The United Methodist Women are still collecting items for emergency health kits. You may pick up a list of required items from the Information Table on Sunday morning. There is a basket for loose items and assembled kits. Monetary donations are also accepted if you prefer to let us do the shopping. The response for these kits has been overwhelming so far! Thank you!

## Prayer Corner

**Prayers of Healing** for Benton Storey (following surgery), Bill Hawthorne (St. Joseph's Manor), Bambi English (at home), and Virginia Johnson (Sheridan on Rock Prairie).

**Prayers of Comfort** for the friends and family of Lilian Simmons, who died on April 10. A graveside service was held on April 15.

*Please keep our troops around the world and their families in your prayers.*

## Support Mexico Mission Trip May 15–21, 2006

We would like to thank all of you who have already supported the college mission trip to Juarez, Mexico, through parking lot fund raisers, breakfast taco purchases, burger and tamale luncheons, and the annual Hire-a-Hand project. We still need additional funds and support to send our 30–40 missionaries to Mexico. This year, we will be building two houses and sharing the gospel with those families whose homes we will build. If you're looking for a way to further support this year's mission trip, here is a list of ideas. Contact Lance Richards at [college-news@am-umc.org](mailto:college-news@am-umc.org) or 846-8731 for more information to help in any of these areas.

- Pray for the trip and the missionaries. Start now!
- Sign up to be a prayer partner for one of our missionaries. Contact Beckie Stover, our prayer partner coordinator, at [bstover2@cox.net](mailto:bstover2@cox.net) or 696-1828 (leave a message).
- Provide a \$150 scholarship to a missionary. Many of our missionaries are college students without a steady income. Your gift could mean the difference in their ability to attend this mission opportunity.
- Help sponsor a house. The materials for each house cost \$1000. You or your business could sponsor 1/4, 1/2, 3/4, or a whole house.
- Participate in our Hire-a-Hand Workday #2 on Saturday, April 22. Contact Lance to sign up.
- Help with food preparation for the trip. Contact Lance if you are interested.
- Go with us! It's not too late to sign up! Call or e-mail Lance for information.



2005 Mexico Missionaries

# Children's Ministries



## Parents' Nite Out, April 28, 6:00–10:00 p.m.

Enjoy an evening out while your kids have an evening of fun! Children, ages six months through sixth grade, are eligible to participate. The cost is \$10 per child or \$25 maximum per family. Registration forms are now available at the Information Table on Sunday morning, or on-line at [www.am-umc.org](http://www.am-umc.org). The registration deadline is Tuesday, April 25. This is the last PNO of the school year! Activities will include a sneak preview of this summer's Son Treasure Island Vacation Bible School! For more information, please contact Carol Bonds, Director of Children's Ministries, at 846-8731 or [cbonds@am-umc.org](mailto:cbonds@am-umc.org).

## Children of A&M UMC

The children of A&M UMC will be the topic of discussion at the general meeting of the United Methodist Women on May 2, at 9:30 a.m. If you are interested in finding out more about our children's programs, missions projects, and activities, come hear Carol Bonds, Director of Children's Ministries, and the Rev. Laurinda Kwiatkowski, Director of Youth Ministries.

## Sunday School Teachers Needed for Summer

As you may know, many of our children's Sunday School teachers are college students. They will all be going home for the summer in mid-May. We are looking for Sunday School teachers for pre-K through 6th grade for the four-month period from May to August. Do not panic! Training will be provided! You do not necessarily have to have had previous experience teaching Sunday School. There is a curriculum to follow, and the number one requirement is a love of children and a desire to please God. If you feel a calling to do this, please contact Carol Bonds at 846-8731.

## Vacation Bible School, June 26–30

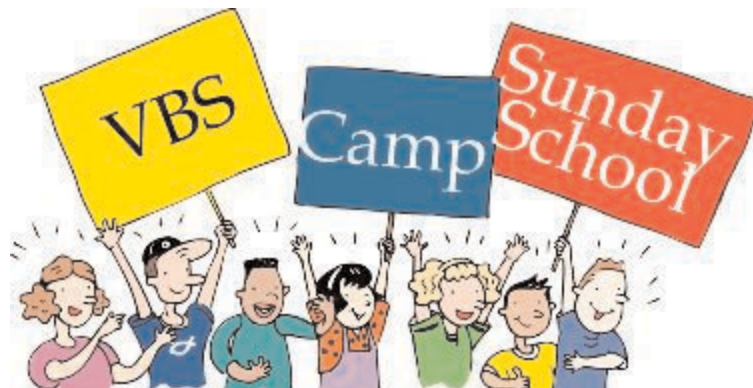
Mark your calendar now! Registration begins Sunday, April 30!

## District Camp for 4th–12th Graders, June 19–23

Registration forms are here now; pick one up from the bulletin board across from the church office. **The deadline for early registration is April 26.** The cost of early registration is \$160 per child. Scholarships can be arranged through the church office by calling Carol Bonds at 846-8731.

## Weekday School Now Hiring for Summer and Fall Positions

The Weekday School of A&M UMC is now accepting applications for a pre-K teacher for the summer and fall, as well as lead teachers and co-teachers. Please fax your resume to 979-846-3387, or call 979-846-1762.



*For more information on these and other programs for children, please contact Carol Bonds, Director of Children's Ministries, at 846-8731 or [cbonds@am-umc.org](mailto:cbonds@am-umc.org).*