



A&M

United Methodist Church

Messenger

Sharing the heart of Christ.

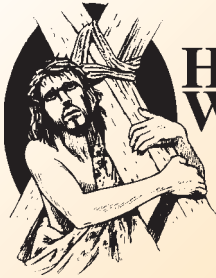
(979)846-8731

Email: office@am-umc.org

www.am-umc.org

March 7, 2008

Experiencing Hope: Easter at A&M UMC



Holy Week

March 16-22

Sunday, March 16 – Palm Sunday

Thursday, March 20 – Maundy Thursday Service at 6:30 p.m.

Friday, March 21 – Good Friday Service *Choral Evensong Service* at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 22 – Holy Saturday, Children's Easter Celebration at the Annex

- 10:00 a.m. Booths & crafts in Annex Fellowship Hall
- 11:00 a.m. Games on the Annex lawn
- 11:30 a.m. Easter story/songs on Annex lawn
- 12:00 p.m. Hot dogs in the Main Fellowship Hall
- 12:30 p.m. Easter Egg Hunt on the Annex lawn

Easter Sunday, March 23

- 6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service
- 8:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
- 9:45 a.m. Contemporary Worship in the Great Hall
- 10:50 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
- 10:50 a.m. College Sunday School



The 8:30 and 10:50 services will be accompanied by full symphony orchestra.

Chancel Choir To Sing At Annual Conference

On May 26, 2008 the Chancel Choir and members of the Wesleyan (University) Choir will be traveling to the Woodlands to present Robert Ray's "Gospel Mass" to the Laity Gathering at Annual Conference.

Besides singing the amazing "Gospel Mass" we will be leading the gathering in one additional anthem dealing with their theme of "At Risk Missions." This is a great honor to the choirs and the church!

If you are interested in joining us for this exciting event, please contact me via email or phone, 846-8731 or sterling-allen@am-umc.org. I would love to have some hometown fans in the crowd!



Vacation Bible School June 23-27, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Registration for VBS is on-going through Sunday, June 1. All children ages three through sixth grade are eligible. Registration forms are available online at www.am-umc.org or on the Information Table.

Adults, please consider volunteering at VBS this year. Volunteer registration forms are also online and on the Information Table. Your help is greatly needed and appreciated.

For more information, please contact Jennifer Fox at 255-6694 or jennifer.fox93@verizon.net.

Tamazunchale

by Taylor Smith

Tamazunchale was an amazing experience that truly has affected my life. God used every aspect of the trip to teach us something, whether it was from the people we met, the situations we found ourselves in, or the group of people who we got to bond with during the trip.

While in Tamazunchale, we were able to serve others in both the physical and the spiritual aspects. These are both key in spreading the love of Christ. We had the opportunity to teach some of the women from Mary's church some new



arts and crafts. We also were able to help build a shed and a nursery for Mary's church. In doing this we not only bonded with those who went on the trip with us, but also built relationships with those who we were serving. Through many of these relationships we were able to encourage them in their own walk with Christ. During our down time we were able to play pick up games of soccer in the street with some of the local kids,

See TAMA pg. 3



Left: Sterling Allen and Joseph Martin
 Top: Sterling, Joseph and Sue Martin, Kip Gilts
 Above: Joseph Martin directs the choir clinic on Saturday, March 1

Soup 'n' Sermon Continues

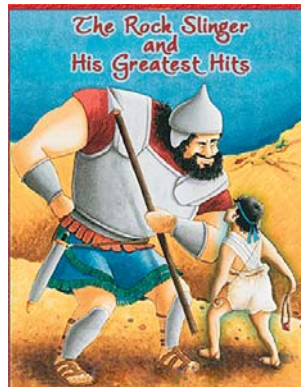
March 9 Bob Waters
 March 16 Jerry Neff

Join us at 5:45 p.m in the Great Hall
 for soup and sermon

An Evening of Song

Mark your calendar now for Friday, April 11 at 7:00 p.m. Sterling Allen and Jeannine Rowden will present an evening of song in the Annex Sanctuary.

MusicMakers '08 - July 7-11



MusicMakers '08 camp is July 7-11, from 8:30 a.m. to noon. This year we will present *The Rock Slinger and His Greatest Hits*. We need 30 adults to help with snacks, music, drama, set building, and chaperoning the playday. Please contact Sterling at 846-8731 or sterling-allen@am-umc.org to sign up to help with MusicMakers '08.

Children's Mission Project



What can you do with the pop top from your can of soda? You can save it to help the Ronald McDonald House in Temple. Our children are collecting the aluminum can tabs now. You can pick up a collection house to take home or bring your tabs to the church

Free Spaghetti Lunch April 6!

You don't want to miss this! Mark your calendar now. The College Ministry will serve a FREE spaghetti lunch on Sunday, April 6!

Keep watching for more details. Contact Katy-Marie Lyles at katy-marie@am-umc.org or 84-8731 for more information.



United Methodist Night at the Astros Game will be April 11. Tickets are \$20 each. You may reserve your tickets by bringing the money by the church office this week. Contact Kip Gilts for more information at kipgilts@am-umc.org.



Kip's Korner

by Kip Gilts

Experience Hope

As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame." Romans 10:11

I have been hearing about Joseph Martin coming to A&M United Methodist Church for a number of months. I knew that he was one of the most prolific composers of choral music of our time. I also knew that I liked a lot of what he has written. I was expecting a lot...and I was not disappointed. Joseph and Sue presented an amazing program last Sunday night. Sue has the voice of an angel and Joe was extraordinary with his piano playing and his storytelling. I love it when things live up to their expectations.

Soup & Sermon has been like that for me. Every Sunday night during Lent I have been able to hear those who have preceded me in pastoral ministry. I have been deeply indebted to them since I arrived at this great church. They have envisioned the future that we are living. They have prayed for the people that we are just now greeting and meeting at our church. I have expected a great deal from their preaching...and I have not been disappointed. Our last two speakers are Bob Waters on March 9th and Jerry Neff on March 16th. I am sure that they too will live up to our high expectations.

Our recent Stewardship Campaign, "Giving Thanks" was an effort with this expectation. We are growing into a congregation of proportional giving where members contribute according to what they have, many of you are moving toward or are already giving a tithe, a tenth of your income. You know the blessing that comes from giving in proportion to how God has given to you. We are still waiting to hear from a number of families who made commitments last year and from a few new commitments. When all is said and done, I am confident...we won't be disappointed. Neither will the givers as God continues to bless us in so many ways.

There are so many other expectations in life that when they live up to expectations, it is an incredible feeling (the start of a new baseball season, the taste of a rhubarb pie coming out of the oven, the contentment of sitting on the sofa surrounded by my family, etc.). However, none of these extraordinary moments can compare to what we find on Easter morning. The empty tomb is what I refer to as "the best thing I never saw". There is an expectation placed in that empty tomb that the living Christ has conquered it all. I can trust Him...and I won't be disappointed - ever.

I invite you to experience the hope of Easter beginning early in the morning at 6:30 a.m. with the Sunrise Service. But even before that join us for the events leading up to that event - the joy of Palm Sunday, the community of Maundy Thursday as we gather around tables in the Great Hall for a special communion service, the passion of Good Friday communicated through music (it is only when we truly understand the events of Good Friday that we can comprehend the miracle of Easter Sunday). Commit yourself to the adventure of Holy Week...you won't be disappointed.

Sincerely,

A&M United Methodist Church, 417 University Dr., College Station, TX 77840, (979)846-8731, www.am-umc.org,
Editor: Cindy Allen, cindyallen@am-umc.org, Webmaster: Vickey Tesh, vickey-tesh@am-umc.org, Pastor: Kip R. Gilts,
kipgilts@am-umc.org, Deadline for copy: The Thursday of the week before publication. Editor reserves the right to edit for content and space.

Prayer Corner

Prayers of Healing for Jody Benedict, M. R. Calliham, Tom Gilbreath, Pat Sargent, Tom Sessums, and Joe Wallace.

Prayers of Thanksgiving for the birth of Noah Tice, born on February 28 to Mike and Frances Tice; and John Sherwood Gorman IV born February 25 to John and Christine Gorman III. He is the grandson of John and Liz Crompton.

Prayers of Comfort for Jean Gresham for the death of her mother.

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

Memorials

The following gifts were received in February:

In memory of Carl Henry by Dr. & Mrs. H. E. Lacey, Co. & Mrs. Robert Matthews, Nelson & Annie Durst, Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Belknap, Bud & Nancy Schwart, Robert & Elizabeth Chenoweth, Henry & Jimmie Hill, Sandra Runnels, Betty Munion, the Susanna Wesley Circle, Bob & Toby Hoffman, the Doer's Class, and Bill & Polly Pope.

In memory of Bennie Zinn by Betty Munion, Cleve & Bobbie Sue Walkup, and the Doer's Class.

In memory of Luke & Lauren Moore by Mary Sicilio.

In memory of Ralph Rayburn by Ann Marsh.

In memory of Hester Parr, Mona Petty, and Nancy Pride's mother by Ann Marsh.

Finances

March 2, 2008

Contributions

Offering	\$20,238.13
MTD	\$20,238.13
YTD	\$196,145.39
2007 Carryover	(1,285.86)
Operation Easter Lily	\$3,405.00
Communion Offering	\$318.00

Expenses

MTD	\$4,528.96
YTD	\$229,158.52

Attendance

8:30 a.m.	236
9:45 a.m.	117
10:50 a.m.	351
TOTAL	704

Family Promise Begins This Spring

The Bryan/College Station Family Promise will start housing families in late spring. We will be a host church and there are many ways in which our members can become involved. Below is a list of items we will need in order to be good hosts. We would like sheets, mattress covers and pillow protectors to be new because they will get the most use.



Pillows and Pillow cases
Twin sheet sets (top and bottom)
Twin mattress protectors
Crib sheets and pads
Baby blankets
Clocks and Table lamps
Face towels and wash cloths
Extension cords
We also will need games, a DVD player, DVD's and books for all ages. Bring items to the church office.

When we host families we will have an opportunity to share the love of Jesus Christ and this is where members can volunteer for different areas. We will probably need 40-60 people to make the week a success and keep it from being a burden on anyone. The areas you can help with are:

- Meal preparation – Dinner and breakfast
- Activities for adults, youth and children
- Set-up and Take-down
- Manage supplies
- Overnight host
- Wash linens

Also, our communion offering in April will go toward buying supplies for Family Promise. This will be a wonderful opportunity to serve people outside our walls and show these families what a welcoming church we truly are.

For questions and to volunteer contact Linda Marr at lindabill.marr@gmail.com or 693-4934, For more information on Family Promise go to <http://familypromisebcs.cfsites.org/>.

TAMA cont'd. from pg. 1

allowing us to build more relationships with people so that we could share God's love and message with them.

We also learned on the trip that God truly does answer prayers and will provide us with many opportunities to share His word. Throughout the trip we, as a group, had been praying that God would provide us with situations in which to minister to the people of Tamazunchale and spread His message. God certainly answered our prayer by providing us with an opportunity in which we had to come together as a group, rely on God, and create a program that God could use to touch the lives of those in the plaza while also being about two hours long. That night in the plaza God worked through us to reach those in need in the crowd. We were able to pray for many who were hurting, and also pray for those who had just accepted Christ into their lives.

We also had the opportunity to visit some of the villages

in the mountains where we did VBS with the children and distributed the food, seeds, clothing, toys, and the rest of the donations that we had brought to Tamazunchale.



helped in the many ways that you did. You all are true Christian leaders and role models for us. Lots of love. Again thank you to everyone in our church family, it is very evident that this church has a loving and serving heart for God's Kingdom. —The College Students

Want to build missionaries?

When a youth goes on a mission trip, their eyes are opened to a whole new world and they learn that they can truly change someone's life. Without adults, youth mission trips are impossible. You don't have to be an expert carpenter, just an adult who loves Christ and mission work.

The Sr. High mission trip (UM ARMY) is June 15-21. The Jr. High mission trip (JUMMP) is July 14-18. Please email or call Clay in the youth office at clay-horton@am-umc.org or 846-8731 to get more information about inspiring young missionaries.

Want to go to Mexico?

College Ministries will sponsor a mission trip to Mexico May 14-20. Adults and college students are welcome to come. They will team up with AMORE Ministries again to build a home for a Mexican family.

Total cost of the trip is \$200 with a \$100 deposit due by April 15 and the balance due by May 1. Scholarships are available.

For more information please contact Katy-Marie Lyles at 846-8731 or katy-marie@am-umc.org.

The Messenger Classifieds

INVEST Ministries Needs Your Help!

SMALL GROUP PROJECTS

If your small group or Sunday School would like to help with some projects around the church, consider one of these:

College Suppers -College Ministry is in need of people to help with their Thursday night dinners. Contact Katy-Marie Lyles, Director of College Ministries at katy-marie@am-umc.org.

Make Homemade Soup for Sunday Night - Volunteers are needed to make homemade soup for the Soup 'n' Sermons on March 9 and 16. Please contact Colleen Blomstedt at 694-0939 or lcbloomstedt@suddenlink.net.

HELPING OUR SOLDIERS

We are collecting sweatsuits for wounded soldiers who are evacuated to Germany from Iraq and Afghanistan. Colors preferred are black, navy, or gray and sizes preferred are large to XXL to accommodate bandages.



We are now sending used cell phones for recycling to *Cell Phones for Soldiers*, a 501c3 non-profit organization that has raised almost \$1 million in donations and distributed more than 400,000 prepaid calling cards to soldiers serving overseas. To learn more about this worthwhile program, visit their website at www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com.

During construction of the Parlor, please bring any of these items to the church office.

Weekday School Job Opening

Weekday School Director position available. Salaried position commensurate with experience. Retirement package optional. Applicant must meet qualifications for a director as outlined in 746.1015 of Minimum Standards for Child Care Centers; TX Dept. of Family and Protective Services. Please contact Tracy Knighton with inquiries at 846-1762 or wds@am-umc.org. Details may also be found on the church website, www.am-umc.org. Submit resumé to Ann Marsh, A&M United Methodist Church, 417 University Drive, College Station, TX 77840.



Use *The Messenger Classifieds* to get your message out and fill open positions in your ministry. Next issue date is March 21, deadline is March 11 at noon. (Early deadline due to Spring Break.)

Contact Cindy Allen at 846-8731 or cindyallen@am-umc.org today!

INCLUDE Ministries

EASTER SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are needed for publicity, parking, greeters, decoration, and hospitality. If you would like to help, contact Marianne James at 693-3507 or mariannejames@hotmail.com.

Children's Ministry

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Registration for VBS 2008 begins today and continues through Sunday, June 1! VBS will be June 23-27, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m., with the closing program on Sunday, June 29, during the Sunday School hour. All children ages three years through sixth grade are eligible to participate! Registration forms are available online on the A&M UMC webpage under the Children's Ministries link or at the information table.

Adults, please consider volunteering at VBS; volunteer registration forms are also available online and at the Information Table. Your help is greatly needed and appreciated! For more information on VBS 2008, please contact Jennifer Fox at 255-6694 or jennifer.fox93@verizon.net.

MUSICMAKERS '08

Our MusicMakers '08 camp is July 7-11, from 8:30 a.m. to noon. We need 30 adults to help with snacks, music, drama, set building, and chaperoning the playday. Please email Sterling Allen, sterling-allen@am-umc.org to sign up to help with Music Makers '08.

VOLUNTEER PIANIST NEEDED

Oak Grove United Methodist Church in Bryan is looking for someone to play the piano at 10:00 a.m. every Sunday morning. If you are interested or know someone who is, please contact Isabel Robbins at 822-1824.

Activities at A&M United Methodist Church

Sunday, March 9, 2008

- 8:30 a.m. **Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. **Worship Service, Annex Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. **Sunday School for all ages
- 9:45 a.m. **College Sunday School, *C-Coffee H
- 9:45 a.m. **JumpStart Class, Room 111
- 10:50 a.m. **Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 10:50 a.m. **College Sunday School, Annex F.H.
- 4:00 p.m. CROSSFIRE Bells, Choir Room
- 5:00 p.m. Financial Peace University, Fellowship Hall
- 5:00 p.m. Finance, Room 209
- 5:45 p.m. Soup 'n' Sermon, *C-Great Hall**
- 6:00 p.m. UMYF, *C-Youth Commons
- 7:00 p.m. Lenten Study, Room 129

Monday, March 10, 2008

- 9:00 a.m. Beth Moore Study, Room 113
- 6:30 p.m. Christian Believer, Room 129
- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 802, Scout Room
- 7:00 p.m. Evening Circle, *C-211

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

- 11:00 a.m. Grown-up Choir, Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, March 12, 2008 - Offices closed for Spring Break

Thursday, March 13, 2008 - Offices closed for Spring Break

- 12:15 p.m. Emmaus Reunion Group, Jane Pulley's home

Friday, March 14, 2008 - Offices closed for Spring Break

Sunday, March 16, 2008

- 8:30 a.m. **Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. **Worship Service, Annex Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. **Sunday School for all ages
- 9:45 a.m. **College Sunday School, *C-Coffee H
- 9:45 a.m. **JumpStart Class, Room 111
- 10:50 a.m. **Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 10:50 a.m. **College Sunday School, Annex F.H.
- 12:30 p.m. Youth Council, *C-Youth Commons
- 3:00 p.m. Easter orchestra rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 4:00 p.m. CROSSFIRE Bells, Choir Room
- 5:00 p.m. Financial Peace University, Fellowship Hall
- 5:45 p.m. Soup 'n' Sermon, *C-Great Hall**
- 6:00 p.m. UMYF, *C-Youth Commons
- 7:00 p.m. Lenten Study, Room 129

- 7:30 p.m. Brass Choir, Choir Room

Monday, March 17, 2008

- 9:00 a.m. Beth Moore Study, Room 113
- 5:30 p.m. Capital Campaign Meeting, *C-211
- 5:30 p.m. First Place, Room 114
- 6:30 p.m. Christian Believer, Room 129
- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 802, Scout Room

Tuesday, March 18, 2008

- 4:00 p.m. International Bible Study, *C-Coffee House
- 5:30 p.m. Lay Leadership, *C-211
- 7:00 p.m. Canterbury Bells, Choir Room

Wednesday, March 19, 2008

- 8:45 a.m. Disciple I, Carol Patton's home
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch Bunch Bible Study, *C-Coffee House
- 3:30 p.m. Artistic Adventures, *C-Great Hall
- 4:30 p.m. Confirmation Class, *C-205
- 5:00 p.m. Cherub Bells, Choir Room
- 5:30 p.m. Endowment Committee, Room 129
- 6:30 p.m. Youth Bible Study, *C-211
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Thursday, March 20, 2008 - Maundy Thursday

- 12:15 p.m. Emmaus Reunion Group, Jane Pulley's home
- 5:30 p.m. Wesleyan Choir, Choir Room

6:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service, Great Hall

Friday, March 21, 2008 - Good Friday

6:30 p.m. Good Friday Service, Sanctuary

Saturday, March 22, 2008

10:00 a.m. Children's Easter Celebration, Annex

Sunday, March 23, 2008 - Easter Sunday Services

- 6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service, Courtyard
- 7:15 a.m. Pancake Breakfast, Fellowship Hall
- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. Worship Service, Great Hall
- 10:50 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary

*Room is in the Christian Life Center

**Childcare provided without reservation



Operation Easter Lily

OEL began as our alternative to buying lilies at Easter. It provided a way to give a more lasting memorial or honorarium for loved ones.

This year we will do both again. Easter lilies will be ordered to decorate both sanctuaries. Funds collected for OEL will be designated to finish out the portable medical clinic with all leftover funds going towards the purchase of a new passenger van for the church.

Our vans are nine and thirteen years old and both have over 100,000 miles on them. Our ultimate goal is to acquire two new vans. The new models are equipped with stability control equipment that greatly reduces the rollover risk. We will need to raise about \$60,000 to accomplish this task. We would like to have at least one new van in place before the summer trip season.

Easter lilies will be provided by Green Teams for \$12 each. OEL forms will be in this Sunday's bulletin and are now on the website at www.am-umc.org.

