



A&M

United Methodist Church

Mid-Month News

Sharing the heart of Christ.

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October 15, 2008

A&M UMC Hosts TAMU Galveston Classes

We have been blessed with the opportunity to accommodate TAMU Galveston classes in our Main Building this semester. Many of you have volunteered in the Coffee House, baked homemade goodies, or acted as greeters in the beginning. We thank you all. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed by the students. Read below two of the letters Rev. Gilts has received.

To all involved,

I feel obligated to take the time to sincerely thank you for your hospitality this morning. I am an A&M Galveston student that is taking courses at your church on Tuesday mornings. I was actually excited to have class here because I would not have to deal with the mess of a campus I am unfamiliar with. When I came to your building today to go to class, I was met at the door by a gentleman with a letter and a map. He stood with me, showed me the map, helped me locate my classroom and most importantly welcomed me into his church. I was truly taken back by his sincere attitude and hospitality. In addition he took the time to inform me about your coffee shop. I was stunned that your members have taken the time out of their own lives to staff this shop for extended hours just for us. And then he told me there was no charge...how incredible. I took advantage of this "added bonus" today and worked on class work on your free Internet connection and enjoyed a homemade brownie. (Kudos to the incredible person that baked these...wow!) I felt genuinely welcome and "at home" today in your church, it was a very welcome change.

I want you to also know that this hospitality extends beyond just making a bad situation more bearable. My husband and I will be relocating to College Station in the next few months. We are excited about the move but are not looking forward to leaving our church. We are actively involved in a new Methodist church here, "The Watershed" and believe so deeply in the church's foundation to be focused out to the community instead of in on ourselves. We have been agonizing over having to leave a church we truly love and are committed to. We were sure that we would not be able to find a church with the same atmosphere and values. Today, you proved us wrong. Your welcome open arms reassured me that we will find what we are looking for, and A&M United Methodist will be the first place we look.

I am sure that you all are working very hard to make all of us feel welcome and to lessen the blow. I think it is important that you know that your generosity extends beyond just a classroom and a coffee shop. It is a welcome I will take you up on, beyond just this semester! Thanks again for your Christ centered outward vision.

*Blessings,
Kaki Nicotre*

Dear Reverend Gilts,

During this year's hurricane season, I was given the unique opportunity to view human nature and Christian love at their very best. For both Gustav and Ike evacuations, I found myself in College Station, attending A&M Methodist's contemporary service, Ekklesia, for a total of 3 times. The congregation welcomed me in with open arms, and the majority of them didn't know I was an evacuee hoping for a kind word. They were just being themselves, and showing how God's love had touched their lives by touching other people with that love.

During the Ike evacuation, I found myself with quite a bit of free time, and, being an active Wesley Foundation member at my school, busied myself by hanging out at the Wesley Foundation, right across the street from your church. There I watched people coming and going from your church doing everything in their power to help the hundreds of people you sheltered. Going to church during those two weeks, and hearing the stories of these people who were also so touched by your congregation's willingness to help was awe-inspiring. Time and time again I heard about people working for hours on end; preparing food or doing laundry, and then just being willing to sit and listen to the stories of a family ripped from their home.

All that to say...Thank you. Thank you for being exactly where you needed to be when you needed to be there, and for doing God's work in a world racked with uncertainty. A world where people aren't always as decent as they should be to each other. It was refreshing to see such a loving congregation willing and ready to help out their fellow human beings, Christian or not. Thank you for being there to help facilitate.

*In Christ,
Christy Monroe*

Goodies Needed for the Coffee House

We are still in need of items such as cookies, brownies, muffins, cupcakes, etc. wrapped individually, or by twos, in plastic wrap so that we can freeze them and take them out as needed for the Coffee House. Also needed are boxes of granola bars to keep on hand.

You may bring them to the church office Mon-Fri, 8am to 5pm or on Sunday morning.

A&M UMC Country Fair

Saturday, October 25th
2:00 p.m. until dusk



Will Rev. Gilts kiss
a pig again this year?

Come and find out! Look what else we'll have:

- Country Store with fresh bread, cakes, cookies, candies to be purchased.
- Frozen homemade casseroles to purchase and take home.
- Gift tables with gently used donated items.
- Pony rides for the kids.
- A hayride for everyone.
- Music in the huge Amish barn.



- An authentic chuck wagon supper.
(RSVP to the church office, 846-8731)

See map to the barn on
the next page.

It's not too late to volunteer to help out in many ways.

Help is needed in the Country Store, baking homemade goodies to sell, and working a two-hour shift anywhere on the farm. Items for the Silent Auction are also needed.

Please contact the following if you would like to help out:

Bev Arnold at 846-3226 or 777-6561
Ann Marsh at 846-2014
Connie Kelly at 281-450-2276
Sandra Runnels at 693-7417

Directions to House Barn

From Bryan

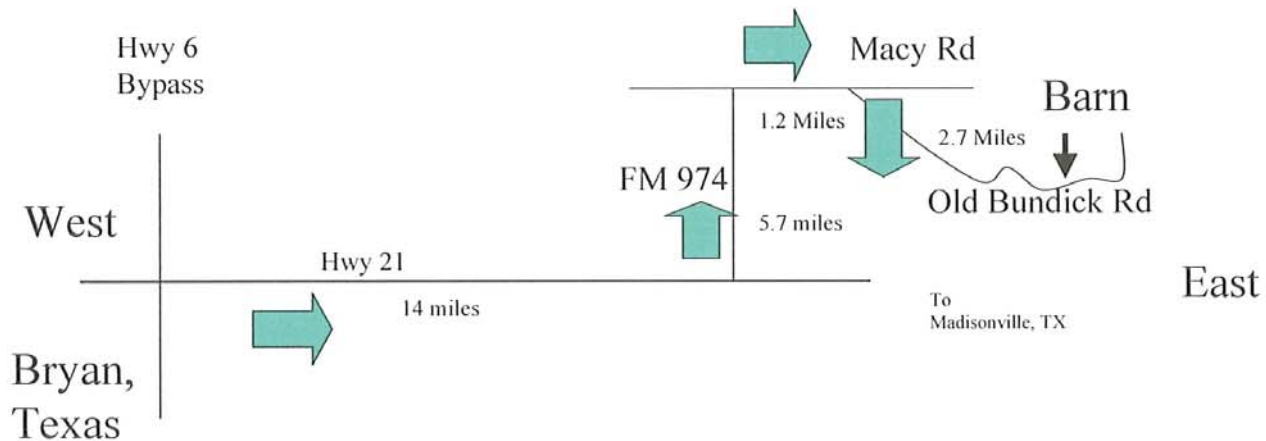
Take Hwy 21 East toward Madisonville from Bryan to FM 974 cutoff—about 14 miles from the Circle K store at the corner of Hwy 6 Bypass and Hwy 21.

Turn left onto FM 974 and continue until you reach a stop sign (5.7 miles from Hwy 21).

Turn right at the stop sign onto Macy Road. Continue on Macy Road for 1.2 miles and turn right on Old Bundick Road.

Continue on Old Bundick Road for another 2.7 miles (about .7 miles past the end of the pavement). Our entrance is on the left, with a sign “House Farms Beefmasters.” The entrance is under construction but consists of a pipe fence with cattle guard—no gate.

Go across the new cattle guard and follow the lane.



From Madisonville:

Take Hwy 21 West toward Bryan. Continue through North Zulch and cross the Navasota River. At the top of the hill, there will be a roadside park (on the left) and a few hundred feet beyond is FM 974 on your right. Take 974 to the right and follow the map above.

Farm Phone Number: 979-589-2499

A Note of Thanks from Heath and Ashley Starns:

"We are truly blessed by the outpouring of support from our church family!

*Thank You
for Your Prayers*

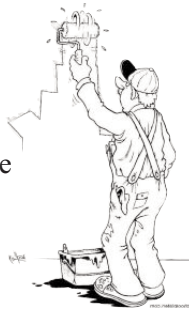


Heath and I expected Andrew and Isaac to arrive early, but we never imagined they would arrive 10 weeks early. The church's prayers and support made a huge impact on our lives as we endured 2 months in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Texas Children's Hospital. THANK YOU for all that you have done to show your support through prayers, gift cards, parking, and meals once we returned home. We continue to be touched when we introduce our sons to people who tell us, 'We have been praying for you.' God's amazing love has been shown to us through each of you. God bless you all."

Local Mission Opportunity

A&M UMC Missions and the College Ministry will be working on a local Hispanic church, Templo Del Espiritu Santo, in Bryan on Saturday, November 15. The work will include some drywall repair and possibly some painting.

If you would like to help, please contact Ben Winkle at 219-3503 or bwinkle@officemax.com.



Hospice Happenings in November

The Hospice Auxiliary is sponsoring two trips this November to local Winter Holiday markets. The proceeds from the trips will be donated to Brazos Valley Hospice, Inc. to fund programs in the Brazos Valley.

Thursday, November 13 – Houston

The first trip is to the Houston Ballet Nutcracker Market on Thursday, November 13. The bus departs from Post Oak Mall (Sears side) at 8:00 a.m. to drive to Reliant Arena, Houston where our travelers will be dropped off at the entrance to the market. The cost is \$65 per person which includes bus transportation, drop off and pick up at the entrance to the market, admission ticket, morning snacks, afternoon hors d'oeuvres and beverages. We are usually back in College Station by 5:30 p.m. Reservations are due by November 5.



Friday, November 21 – Austin



The second trip is to Austin for the Junior League Christmas Affair Market on Friday, November 21. The bus departs from Post Oak Mall (Sears side) at 8:00 a.m. to drive to Austin and our passengers will be dropped off near the entrance to the Market. Cost is \$65 per person which includes bus transportation, drop off and pick up at the entrance to the Market, admission, morning snacks, afternoon horse d'oeuvres and beverages. Reservations for this trip are due by November 13.

For more information or to make a reservation, please call 696-6896 or 846-0997.

Coffee House Open During the Day

When news hit that our church would be serving as one of the places where Galveston students would be attending classes, a need for great hospitality came to mind. Soon e-mails were sent and volunteers eager to help welcome the students and to help work in the Coffee House were present. Previously, the Coffee House was open Sunday-Thursday 6-11pm but now we are open during the day as well.

With the help of several Sunday school classes and willing volunteers we have become a safe welcoming environment not only for the Galveston students but to newcomers off the street and some of the evening attendees as well. This has helped carry out the purpose and mission of the Coffee House even more so. Special thanks to the new Coffee House volunteers and to the Sunday school classes who have stepped up to provide volunteers and snacks. We are truly making an impact on students one cup at a time!

Volunteers are still needed on Wednesday morning from 7:30 to 11:00 and on Friday from 9:30 a.m. to noon. If you would to help every week or be on our sub list, please contact Debbie Keim at office@am-umc.org or 846-8731.

TAMUG Needs Volunteers

The TAMU Galveston staff is requesting volunteers to help with sorting and distributing donated items. If you have any time between the hours of 9 am and 4 pm Tuesday thru Friday this week and all of next week, please go to the Food Services Commissary on Agronomy Road at the TAMU campus.

Cassandra Boyd says, "Please, let the students and members of your congregation know that we are desperately seeking volunteers from 9a.m-4p.m. for this week and next week for the donation drive."

Directions: From the church take FM 60/ University Dr. towards the airport and turn right on Agronomy Rd (first light past Wellborn). The Food Services Commissary is on the right - follow the signs.