



**A&M**  
United Methodist Church  
*Sharing the Heart of Christ*

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF  
A&M UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# the *Messenger*

FEBRUARY 3, 2012

## Valentine's Banquet & Dance at A&M UMC

*The A&M UMC youth would like to invite you to join us for a night of dinner and dancing at our annual Valentine's Dance and Banquet on Sunday, February 12 from 5:00 to 9:00 pm. Enjoy a deliciously prepared prime rib dinner, excellent music by the Aggieland Orchestra, along with a live and silent auction. Childcare is provided. Tickets can be purchased after all worship services this Sunday.*

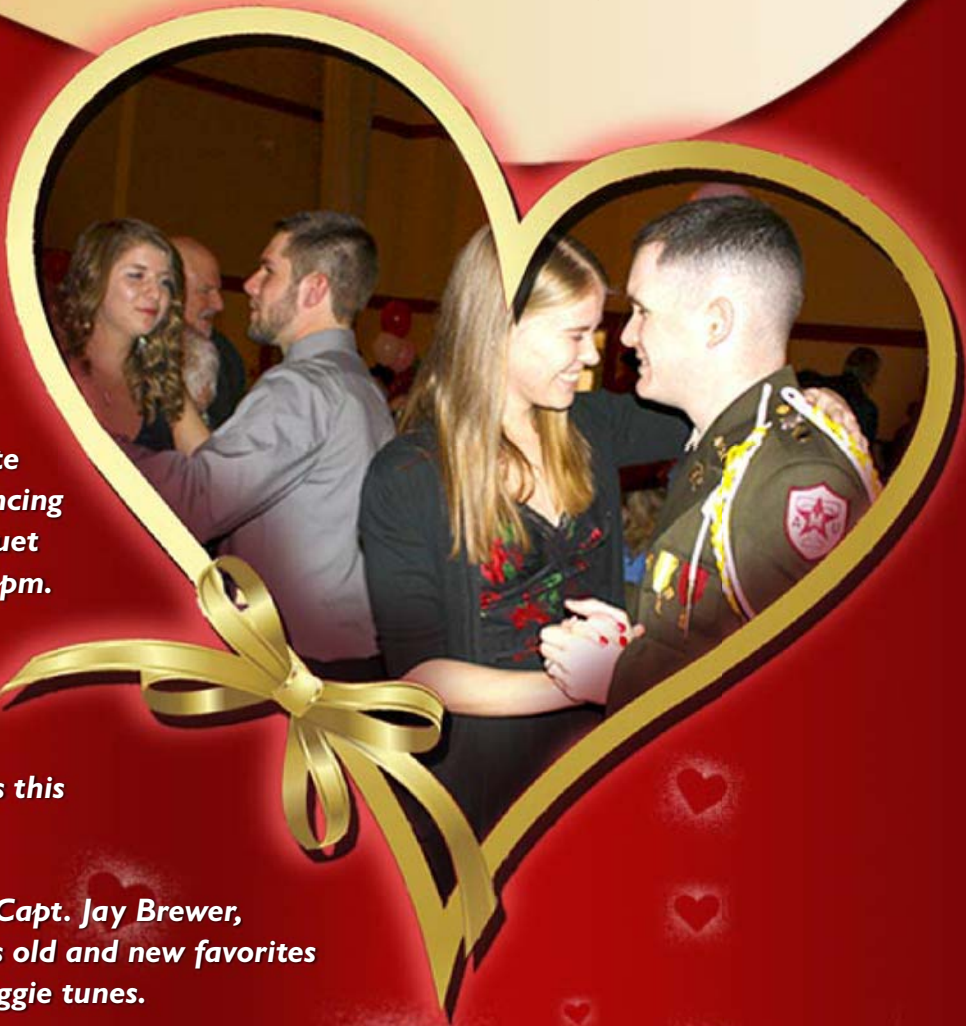
*The Aggieland Orchestra, conducted by Capt. Jay Brewer, will provide the music. The orchestra plays old and new favorites to dance to, along with some traditional Aggie tunes.*

*Dinner will be served by members of A&M UMC Youth Ministries. A lovely hostess and handsome host will show you to your table. Elegant centerpieces and tableware will provide the setting for a delicious prime rib dinner with vegetable sides and a dessert. The beverages include special brewed coffee and tea, along with water, to wake up your taste buds and cleanse your palette.*

*In the midst of dining, dancing, and fellowship, there are two auctions, silent and live. Auction items are donated to the event and often include such items as a night in a bed and breakfast, meals and desserts especially prepared for dinners in your home, restaurant gift cards, specialty baskets, weekend retreats, hand-made items such as quilts and furniture, and much more.*

*If you would like to purchase a table, donate an item to the auction, or support the event in other ways, go online to <http://www.am-umc.org/announcements.htm> to learn more.*

*This information is also available in the church office.*



# Kip's Korner



member even said, "I have attempted to read the Bible through several times, but this time feels different. I know that I will complete *The Journey*, because I am traveling with my church."

I have noticed a different feel around the church. I am not sure how to describe it – investment seems to be the word. Members and friends are invested in *The Journey*, invested in the church, invested in their walk with God. I know some families are taking *The Journey* together. This has prompted lots of questions as the Bible does not pull a lot of punches and can be quite earthy. I read somewhere that in some religious circles a person needed to be at least thirty years old to read the book of Ezekiel. I have even encouraged some parents to read the Bible like I read *Huckleberry Finn* to my daughter nearly twenty years ago – on site paraphrasing. Even with the obstacles of graphic stories and seemingly endless genealogies, the opportunity for families, couples, and this entire church to be taking *The Journey* together is going to produce such growth in this congregation.

I want to encourage you to join us on *The Journey* if you are not already doing

so. Remember to pack light so you will not wear yourself out. Just four things:

1. **A Bible** – You may want to have both a Bible you can write in and an audio Bible. You will be amazed how many chapters can be covered in the car while running errands. It may not be the most reflective setting, but it keeps you caught up with the story.

2. J. Ellsworth Kalas' book, "**The Grand Sweep: A Bible Study for Individuals and Groups**". The few paragraphs a day help to highlight lessons learned in the readings.

3. **The Weekly Devotional Guide** found in our worship bulletins and on our website: [www.am-umc.org](http://www.am-umc.org).

4. **Prayer** – Pray daily for God to show you what God wants you to see today in these scriptures.

Sermons and a Wednesday Pastor's Bible Study will serve as resources for *The Journey*. Finally, if you get behind, don't despair. Simply pick up where we are on *The Journey* and we will continue together. I am praying for you and ask for your prayers as well.

Sincerely,

"Go...to the land that I will show you."  
Genesis 12:1

I am already in awe of how many members and friends of A&M United Methodist Church are embarking on *The Journey* through the Bible. Over 400 copies of the Grand Sweep have been distributed and 250 more are on their way. Several members have mentioned to me that they have meant to read the Bible all the way through for years, but something always got in the way. One

## Pastors' Bible Studies on Wednesdays for *The Journey*



There are two pastor led studies on Wednesdays which will supplement and help answer questions regarding the week's Bible readings. One is a Brown Bag study which meets at 12 noon in C-211 and another which meets at

6:15 pm in Fellowship Hall after Wednesday Night Supper.

These studies are designed to answer any questions that may have arisen in the previous week and lift up notable themes in the readings. The Wednesday study will focus on the readings for the week that concluded on the previous Saturday. NOTE: If you have questions that you would like addressed, please email [kathleene@am-umc.org](mailto:kathleene@am-umc.org) or [kipgilts@am-umc.org](mailto:kipgilts@am-umc.org) before the study so that we will have time to research the answer.

of character that is discernible through action and reflective of our God who is generous. This month we launch Extravagant Generosity: Looking at Giving as an

Expression of Grace. A&M United Methodist Church has been hovering around 325-350 households who have committed to Extravagant Generosity through Response Cards that estimate one's giving from June - May 31. We are praying for such a positive response that 400 households will be represented by March 4th, which is Commitment Sunday. Please join in praying for this corporate response to the Grace of Giving through Extravagant Generosity.

Bishop Robert Schase was once asked what the difference is between generosity and stewardship. He acknowledged that while the word stewardship conjures up some very positive images of caring for and overseeing something that belongs to another, that it runs the risk of being insider language for church people. Furthermore, he fears that the word can even feel weighty, dutiful, and legal sounding. Generosity, he maintains, is an aspect

of character that is discernible through action and reflective of our God who is generous. This month we launch Extravagant Generosity: Looking at Giving as an Expression of Grace. A&M United Methodist Church has been hovering around 325-350 households who have committed to Extravagant Generosity through Response Cards that estimate one's giving from June - May 31. We are praying for such a positive response that 400 households will be represented by March 4th, which is Commitment Sunday. Please join in praying for this corporate response to the Grace of Giving through Extravagant Generosity.

**A&M UMC**  
**Ash Wednesday**  
**Service, February 22 at**  
**6:00 pm**  
**in the Sanctuary**

# Journey TO CHRIST



Journey to Christ is the opportunity for adults and older youth to expand their understanding of who Jesus Christ is and to enhance their relationship with Him. We engage in practices that help us experience the fullness of who Jesus is and how He invites us to live. Participants in Journey to Christ are Seekers, those in various stages of their spiritual growth, and Sponsors, those who share the Journey with Seekers.

We share a fellowship meal, hear personal testimonies of how we experience God, reflect on Scripture, and discuss how discipleship that grows out of Scripture relates to United Methodist beliefs. Seekers whose journey leads them to Christian discipleship may elect to be baptized. For Seekers already baptized, renewal of their baptismal vows is offered.



Seekers included: John McDonald, Sara Eliason, Cynthis Flanagan, Amber Schluens, Cameron Schulens, Sara Krusekopf, and Caitlyn Spiess



Sponsors included; Annie Jackson, Kathy Kothmann, Lynn Knowles, Connie Lipsey, Vernon Tesh, Beckie Stover, Stan Stover, Guy Pry, Mort Kothmann

## Sacrament of Holy Baptisms

Chloe Anne and James Harlan Granberry III, children of Jay and Chrissie Granberry; James Harlan Granberry, Jr.; Sara Kay Eliason; Cynthia Sikes Flanagan; Mya Nicole Lucio, daughter of Jennifer Saenz and Raul Lucio; Noah Samuel Ottinger, son of Kyle and Jamie Ottinger; Jamie Leann Ottinger; and Chad Potts

## Reaffirmation of Baptismal Covenant

Tracy Atkins; Sara Beth Krusekopf; John Jeffrey McDonald; Caitlyn Rae Spiess; Cameron Schluens; Amber Dawn Schluens; Catharine Corder; Nancy Gilmore; Ashley Karlen; Amy Mason; Beckie Stover; and Robert White

# New Members Welcome



Sarah Zimmermann



Chris Shirley



Jay, Chrissie, Chloe, and Jeb Granberry

Not Pictured  
Mark Briles  
Linda Roberts



Doug, Jenny, Bella, and Grace Bramwell



Sara Eliason



Cynthia Flanagan



Cameron and Amber Schluens with children, Caden and Cooper

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- February 5 - Confirmation Mentor Lunch, 11:00 am
- February 10 - Comfort Food Cook-Off, 5:30 pm
- February 12 - Finance Committee meeting, 5:00 pm  
Valentine Banquet, 6:00 pm  
Extravagant Generosity Kick-off
- February 17 - Parents' Nite Out, 6:00 pm
- February 18 - Emma Gay Circle, 8:30 am
- February 19 - Core Leadership meeting, 3:30 pm  
Church Council meeting, 5:00 pm
- February 22 - Ash Wednesday Service, 6:00 pm
- February 26 - WDS Board Meeting, 4:00 pm
- February 29 - Men's Prayer Breakfast, 7:00 am  
-
- March 3 - Texas Research Ramblers Spring Seminar, 8:00 am
- March 7 - D.M.A. Luncheon, 11:30
- March 10 - Belize Missionaries Depart
- March 11 - 16 - Spring Break
- March 14 - 16 - CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED
- March 18 - Finance Committee Meeting, 5:00 pm

## e-Newsletter

If you would like to receive an e-mail notice when the newsletter is posted on our web page, please contact Vickey Tesh at [vickey-tesh@am-umc.org](mailto:vickey-tesh@am-umc.org). We can save money and paper and you get to view the newsletter in living color!

## Finances

As of January 29

|                 | January     | YTD          |
|-----------------|-------------|--------------|
| Contributions   | \$61,878.11 | \$61,878.11  |
| Expenses        | \$68,699.74 | \$68,699.74  |
| 2011 Carryunder |             | \$-17,501.05 |
| 2010 Carryover  |             | \$67,046.33  |

## Welcome to Katy Bonds, our new Weekday School Director



"My name is Katy Bonds and I am very excited to be the Director of A&M UMC WDS. I graduated from Texas A&M in 2006, and have been teaching Pre-K at a local charter school ever since.

While I am new to the Director position, I am very familiar with the school, as I was a teacher here during my high school and college years.

When I am not at work, I enjoy reading, swimming, outdoor

activities, and AGGIE BASEBALL!"

Katy is no stranger to A&M UMC. She was confirmed in this church and attended here through her college years. Please welcome her to our staff when you see her around the church!



## Northgate Philharmonic Ball

Friday, March 2, 2012 at 7pm

Join us for an evening of food, fun, and dancing! Chef Tai of Veritas and Chef Peter Madden of Maddens will be preparing a 5-course tasting menu to be served as part of this year's fund-raiser ball. This isn't your everyday banquet chicken dinner! All the funds raised will go toward the purchase of major instruments for the Northgate Philharmonic. Tickets are \$100 per person with limited availability.

For more information or tickets please contact Dr. Sterling Allen at [sterling-allen@am-umc.org](mailto:sterling-allen@am-umc.org).

## UMW General Meeting, Feb. 7



United Methodist Women

UMW General Meeting and Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, February 7 at 11:00 am in the Annex Fellowship Hall. The program title is "Call to Prayer and Self Denial!"



Please RSVP to church office at 846-8731



**Church Family Suppers** are a time for us to gather around tables, enjoy a meal together and share friendships with our church family. Join us from 5:30 - 6:30 on Wednesday evenings and stay for one of our Study Groups or extended visiting around the domino table. Meals are \$5 per person with a maximum of \$20/family.

- 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm Church Family Supper
- 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm JC Club
- 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm Joyful Noise Children's Choir
- 6:00 pm - 8:15 pm Youth Bible Study
- 6:15 pm - 7:00 pm Pastors' Bible Study for *The Journey*



**Family Promise Comfort Food Cook-Off SAVE THE DATE**

6:00—9:00 PM  
 Friday, February 10, 2012 at A&M UMC in the Great Hall. Tickets are \$20 and are available at the Family Promise Day Center or call 979-268-4309 to make a reservation.

## Prayer Concerns

### PRAYERS OF HEALING FOR:

Dwayne Suter; Matthew Wells, Kathy Kothmann's nephew; and Bill Marr's mother.

PRAYERS OF JOY FOR: the birth of Sawyer Ellis Carrigan, son of Alyssa and James Carrigan, on January 9.

### PRAYERS OF COMFORT FOR:

Don Hellriegel and his family and friends on the passing of his wife, Lois Hellriegel; Kelley Ervin and family on the passing of her mother, Marsha Burns; friends of Lora Byrd Powell on her passing; and Bob Middleton on the passing of his mother; and Bobbie Middleton on the passing of her brother, Carroll Harvey.

### ONGOING PRAYERS FOR:

Pat Broccard, Amy Mason's mother; Allison Crow; Billy Albert, Jennifer Allen's father; the Cochran family, friends of Carol Tatum; Rev. Wally Web, Kathleene Card's friend; June Swoyer, Joy Williams' mother; Mary Majors; Cash Cain; Kenneth Epstein, Jim and Joan Teer's son-in-law; Cheryl West; Bobbie Brewer; Betty Gilbreath; Debbie Almand; Leslie Gage, mother of Gail Gage; Foy Page; Joe Majors; Kirsten Windhorst; Dixie Pruitt; Mac McConnell; Kris Gilts, Kip Gilts' brother; Bob Hoffman; Marguerite Anthony; Ruby Pittman; Cleve Walkup; Pearl Kiser; Brent Dworaczyk; Ruth Dabney, Janet Bowman's mom; Marge Benson; Stephan Munion; Elaine Waggoner; Joan Teer; M. R. Calliham; Frances Henry; Pat Sargent; and Jean Gresham.

*Please pray for peace as you keep our troops around the world and their families in your prayers. The Prayer Team thanks you for your prayer requests and asks you. When possible, to call or e-mail request updates which can be shared with the Prayer Team.*

# music & arts

## MINISTRIES OF A&M UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES at A&M UMC - Sterling (A&M UMC's Music and Arts Director) often boasts he can teach anyone to sing or play instruments together. So if you would like to experience choral singing, handbells or playing in an orchestra, he is always interested in welcoming new members to any of A&M UMC's Music and Arts' many musical opportunities. Here are some of the musical groups. Please contact Dr. Sterling Allen at [sterling-allen@am-umc.org](mailto:sterling-allen@am-umc.org)

**Chancel Choir**  
 Meets Wednesdays  
 7:00-8:30pm

**Artistic Adventures**  
 Meets Wednesdays  
 4:00-5:00pm

**Coventry Bells**  
 Meets Thursdays  
 6:30-7:30pm

**University Choir**  
 Meets Thursdays  
 5:30-6:30pm

**Canterbury Bells**  
 Meets Sundays  
 3:00-4:00pm

**Northgate Philharmonic**  
 Meets Sundays  
 4:30-5:30pm



## College Mission Trip to Alabama



### SERVING AND EXPERIENCING CHRIST

#### SEC Mission Project:

With the new conference realignment, A&M UMC College Ministries had the opportunity to show the rest of the SEC what being an Aggie is all about and how our desire is to imitate Christ. A team of 17 headed east to *Serve and Experience Christ* by working with tornado victims in Birmingham, AL and visiting other SEC schools. The team worked with *Christian Service Mission* to repair houses and help victims of the April tornados get back to normal way of life. Through our work with CSM we were able to help a man we never had the chance to meet. We cleaned and sorted all

of the possessions, including 7,000 VHS tapes and DVDs belonging to a man named Charles. Charles' mass amount of movies kept his house from being completely destroyed, but it was still seriously damaged beyond repair. CSM is building him a new house and we

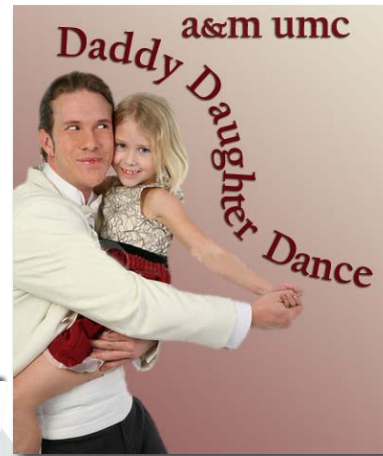
wanted to ensure that his moldy possessions did not contaminate his new house. We also had the opportunity to meet Mr. Hunter and help with the finishing touches on his house. He was moved to tears by the hearts of our students and encouraged us to continue to be a blessing to others. Throughout the mission, we were humbled, as Christ was, as we experienced the circumstances of the people we were sent to help. As we visited LSU, Bama, and Mississippi State, we were greeted warmly and welcomed into the SEC.



## Parents' Nite Out, Feb. 17



**Parents' Nite Out** will be on Friday, February 17, from 6-10 pm. Cost is \$10/child or \$25/per family. To register you may fill out the form at [www.am-umc.org/pno2.htm](http://www.am-umc.org/pno2.htm) or contact [joy-williams@am-umc.org](mailto:joy-williams@am-umc.org)



## Save the Date...

**A&M UMC will host a Daddy/Daughter Dance for all ages on Saturday, March 31 from 6:00-8:00 pm.**



## Youth Dates to Remember

**Friday, February 3 - Crunch Time** is a retreat led by Wesley Foundation students for juniors and seniors in high school. It is directed at teaching them how to grow in their faith while in college.

**Sunday, February 5 - Youth Super Bowl parties** will be held on Sunday, Feb. 5, at the homes of Jeremy Wilson (senior high) and Aaron Garrett (junior high). Please make plans to spend this fun night with the youth ministry! Contact [zac@am-umc.org](mailto:zac@am-umc.org) if you need directions or have any questions.

**Wednesday, February 8 - Bible Study**

**Sunday, February 12 - Valentine's Dance and Banquet**

**Wednesday, February 15 - Bible Study**

**Sunday, February 19 - UMYF**



# PROJECT BELIZE

MARCH 10-17, 2012

"I BELIZE  
in a thing  
called  
love..."

Partner  
with A&M United  
Methodist Church youth and  
college students in building a high  
school in Belmopan, Belize. By doing so,  
you are taking part in building up  
leaders in our community and building a  
future for people in need. Sponsors will  
receive special recognition at the A&M  
UMC Valentine's Banquet, February 12,  
2012. This elegant banquet hosts nearly  
250 guests and features the Aggieldand  
Orchestra, prime rib dinner, and live  
and silent auctions.

## THREE WAYS TO BE A PROJECT BELIZE SPONSOR

### Gold

Donate \$500 or more and  
receive a full page ad in our  
program booklet

### Silver

Donate \$200 or more and  
receive a quarter page ad  
in our program booklet

### Bronze

Donate \$50 or more and  
receive special recognition  
in our program booklet.

All proceeds go to Project Belize Sponsorship  
for building the Belmopan Methodist High  
School. Your tax deductible donation can be  
made to A&M United Methodist Church.  
Write: Project Belize in the memo line

A&M United Methodist Church  
417 University Dr. College Station, TX 77840  
979-846-8731 [www.am-umc.org](http://www.am-umc.org)



## Special Gifts



### December 2011 Gifts given in memory of:

#### Annie Durst

UMW  
Dr. Gerald and Lyle Bratton  
Cleve and Bobbie Walkup  
Nell Dickens

#### Nelson and Annie Durst

Mort and Kathy Kothmann  
Nancy Schneider

#### Henry Rosson

Parr and Helen Rosson

#### Fred and Mary Sicilio

Mimi Sicilio

#### Bob Gallaway

Mary Cay and Tom Woodfin

#### Edwin Shaar

Charles and Mary Jane Wiggins

#### Dr. Bicker W. Cain Jr

Bicker and Joyce Cain

#### George Riley

Teddy and Mary Hirsch

#### Dr. Fred Kettleborough

Nell Dickens

#### Nell Page

Ralph and Mary Joan Zingaro  
Melissa Kilpatrick  
Bonnie Nance Stewart  
Doug and Nora Swyden  
Golden Rule class

Karen Albert  
Cleve and Bobbie Walkup  
Larry and Carol Patton  
Sandra Runnels

Sue Foy  
Elyse and Craig Schill  
Dean Dyer

UMW  
Teddy and Mary J. Hirsch  
Elmer and Mildred Krehbiel  
Dorothy Holland  
Bob and Reba Ragsdale  
Bonnie Springer  
Willard and Dorcas Willis

#### Bill Walker

June Shelton School  
and Evaluation Center  
Peggy Sessums  
Golden Rule class  
Teddy and Mary Hirsch  
Elmer and Mildred Krehbiel  
Larry and Carol Patton  
Bob and Reba Ragsdale  
James and Cora Jackson  
Sue Foy  
Cleve and Bobbie Walkup

### December 2011 Gifts given in honor of:

#### Bill and Linda Marr

Patsy Kenner

#### Elizabeth Bojkov

Christo and Jennifer Bojkov

#### Michael Watson

David and Connie Kelly

#### Debbie McElroy

David and Connie Kelly

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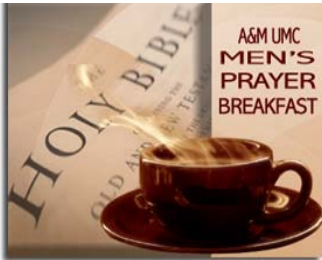
## Altar Flowers and Sanctuary Lamp

### Reserve Your Dates For Altar Flowers and Sanctuary Lamp



If you would like to donate altar flowers or dedicate the Sanctuary Lamp in honor or in memory of a loved one, please contact Vickey Tesh at [vickey-tesh@am-umc.org](mailto:vickey-tesh@am-umc.org) or 846-8731.

Cost of the altar flowers is \$30 per arrangement and the lamp is \$10.



### Men's Prayer Breakfast

The Men's Prayer Breakfast will meet on Wednesday, February 29, in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00 am.

## UMW Love Ribbons Sale



The United Methodist Women will be selling "Love Ribbons" at \$1.00 each, before and after services on Sunday, February 12. So, come to church prepared to buy a ribbon for those you love and admire to wish them a Happy Valentine's Day.



Do you have an extra couple hours you could spend at church?

We need help in the church office as a volunteer receptionists and as offering

counters. The rewards are immeasurable but the appreciation is immense! Please call the church office at 846-8731 or email [office@am-umc.org](mailto:office@am-umc.org).

**Brazos Valley CPS sends a THANK YOU VERY, VERY, MUCH to A&M UMC for helping their kids this Christmas!**