



Medina Messenger

Newsletter of the Medina United Methodist Church

March 2010

Bill's Bytes



We are in the middle of the Season of Lent. Lent is a time to prepare ourselves for the greatest event that has ever occurred... the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

I've often said that for the good news of the Gospel to really be good news, we have to come to grips with the bad news. Sometimes we forget that. We want to go right to the good news of, "The Lord has Risen," and forget everything Christ had to go through in order to secure our salvation.

The bad news is (Are you ready for this?) that there is NOTHING whatsoever you can do to earn your salvation. All we deserve (because of our sin) is eternal separation from God. The bad news is that apart from God directly taking action that we are all destined to Hell. Doesn't sound too good does it?

The good news is that God has taken direct action

through His Son Jesus Christ. Romans 5:8 says, "That God demonstrates His own love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)

The bad news as well as the good news packaged in a single verse...

Romans 6:23 (NASB)

²³ For the wages of sin is death (Bad News)* but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Good News)*

**Parenthesis added*

Lent is a time to slow us down so that we can come to grips with the fact that our salvation came at a great cost. Salvation is a free gift, but it certainly isn't cheap.

Sometimes we inadvertently cheapen that salvation when we tell people the good news without telling them the bad news. That's like giving people the answer without giving them the

problem. If you just tell people, "Jesus suffered and died for your sins," a lot of people are like, "So what? Lent is a time that we answer the, "So What?"

I can think of nothing better to get us more in touch with the season of Lent than watching Mel Gibson's, "The Passion for the Christ."

Some say the movie went too far to depict the violence done to Jesus. I don't think it went far enough. The Bible says that Jesus was beaten to the point that he didn't even look like a man.

A word of caution: We need to be careful with how we observe Lent. The purpose of Lent is not to beat you up with your sins, but to help us to not take our salvation lightly. It's designed to help us be more in touch with that sacrifice so that we

Medina United Methodist Church
(263 Reed Avenue)
P. O. Box 208
Medina, TX 78055
(830) 589-2646
www.medinaumc.org

Rev. Bill Stegemueller
bill@stegemueller.com



Medina United Methodist Church Worship Schedule

Sunday

9:45 a.m. – Sunday School
11:00 a.m. – Worship Service

Wednesday

7:00 p.m. – Mid-week Study

Church Council meeting time to be announced.

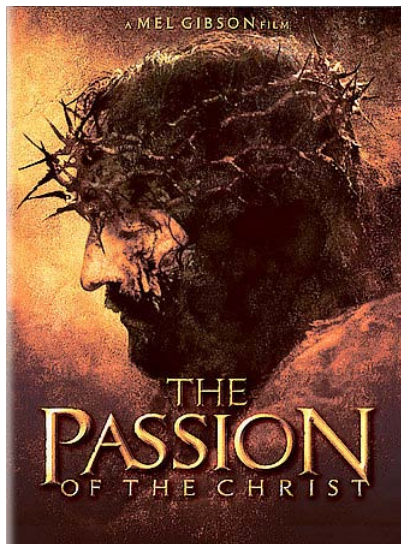


Our Vision

"We invite everyone into the family of GOD, where the LORD is praised and felt, love is shared, and lives are blessed."

can truly be grateful for our salvation.

On Good Friday (April 2nd) at 7 PM we will be showing, "The Passion of the Christ," in High Definition on our 144 inch screen at THE CORE. There will be a brief time of teaching and worship immediately after.



Please come. Also, consider inviting someone to this life changing movie. Don't forget to pray for God to work His will through this movie. Finally, thank God for the words of the timeless hymn, "Grace, Grace... God's Grace... Grace that is greater than all our sin."

Bill

UMW MEETING (United Methodist Women)

The UMW will meet on **Wednesday, March 17, 2010**
at 2:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall
Program – "For the Love of God: John's Letters"
presented by Lu Harrison

*Come and enjoy the Program, Refreshments and Fellowship!
Men are invited, too!!*

Baptism

On February 19, 2010 Katylyn Ofsow was baptized at the Core.



Easter Lilies

We will have Easter Lilies placed on the altar in memory or honor of loved ones – family or friends.

We will have more information, as well as dates, in the upcoming bulletins.

For more information, get in touch with Clara Ann at (830) 589-7754.



Easter Schedule

Palm Sunday

Sunday, March 28th We will have our Annual Celebration with Palms

Holy Thursday Service

Experience the Passion of the Last Supper April 1st at 6:00 PM in the Sanctuary

Easter Egg Hunt!

Saturday, April 3rd at 10:00 AM at the Church (Please Bring a dozen plastic eggs with stuff inside!)

Easter Day Schedule

Sunday, April 4th SONrise Service at Deer Creek Camp at 7:00 AM (Reception and Breakfast following) 11:00 Easter Service with Flower Cross (Bring your Flowers!)



Dan Matthew's Scholarship

Students affiliated with of Medina United Methodist Church who are planning to attend college this year or who are currently enrolled at a college are invited to apply for the Dan Matthew's Memorial Scholarship.

Applications to receive the scholarship have to be made in writing by May 8, 2009. Students who wish to be considered for the scholarship are invited to make an application to the Dan Matthew's Memorial Scholarship, Medina United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 208, Medina, TX 78055.

The application should include:

Name, address, phone number of the student

The status of achievement (High School Graduate, years of college completed, etc.)

The student's approximate grade-level (A, B, C, etc.)

A brief summary of the goals of the student, short term as well as long term.

Deadline for the Application is Friday May 7, 2010.



Giving Thanks

The family of Marjorie McDonough – Pete, Bob, and Ann Leonard – appreciate the beautiful and thoughtful memorial service and program (wonderful job Debbie) for our mother on February 20th. The words spoken by Pastors Harold and Bill were especially kind and meaningful. A special note to Heidi and Anna for sharing their joyous singing and piano talents with us.

The luncheon with so many choices was great and the volunteers always cheerful and helpful.

Thank you to the members and friends of the Medina United Methodist Church for the compassion and love you showed our Mom and us.

Ann Leonard & Family

Dear Ladies,

My family and I so appreciate your thoughtful kindness towards our special day to celebrate our mother, Marjorie McDonough's life. The ham was much appreciated, thank you.

Fondly,

Ann Leonard & Family

"Your special ways and generous heart make a beautiful difference. Thank you so much."

Thank you, United Methodist Women, for bringing the ham to my mother's service.

**Jessica Bermudez & Chris
(children of Monica Melton)**

Dear Clara Ann and my Medina United Methodist Family,

I want to thank you and all of our church family for the lovely plant. God has blessed me with all the prayers and love – that is what has gotten me through these past few weeks and weeks to come.

I love you all.

God Bless,

Dorothy Bock

Bless the Lord, O my soul, Ps. 103:1

He surely has blessed me! Your card (get well card) arrived on one of those days I could have been feeling better and I want you to know how much it meant to me. Your prayers and concerns mean a lot to me and I want you to know my sincere appreciation.

God loves each and every one of you, and so do I.

God Bless.

Ashton Myers

Giving Thanks

A special note of thanks,

Your card was a wonderful surprise and blessing. God is good! All is well.

Virginia Hans

Dear Medina United Methodist Church Family and United Methodist Women:

Buddy and I wish to express our gratitude to you for the delightful basket of goodies sent to cheer us during Buddy's difficulties. We received so many blessings from God during his surgery experience and subsequent recovery, delivered to us through the thoughtful prayers, calls and cards from you, our dear brothers and sisters in Christ. What a comfort it was to have Pastor Bill come to the hospital and pray with us before the surgery and give comfort to me and my family during the surgery. Although Elayne has membership in another church, it is always a blessing to visit Medina UMC where arms and hearts reach out to all, embracing family and visitors with God's love. May our God continue to bless your ministry as you share the message of Jesus, our Lord and Savior, to this community and beyond.

**Love in Christ Jesus,
Buddy and Elayne Mills**

Dear Ladies,

I want to thank you for having me in your thoughts and prayers. God sure works in lives different. I am healing. My main words are walk and water. We are still doctoring a lot. My surgery is healing good. Please take care of Mom and Dad. Sounds like she enjoys the group and church.

**Love in Christ,
Terry Lacey**



16400 Huebner Road
San Antonio, TX 78248
210.408.4500
888.349.4191 Toll Free
www.umcswtx.org

**OFFICE OF
FINANCE AND
ADMINISTRATION**

January 28, 2010

David A. Seilheimer
Treasurer & Secretary
daseilh@umcswtx.org
888.349.4191 Toll Free
210.408.4518 Direct
210.568.2131 Fax

Ida Penrod Padilla
Associate Treasurer
idap@umcswtx.org
888.349.4191 Toll Free
210.408.4516 Direct
210.408.4553 Fax

Isabel Munoz
Benefit Manager
imunoz@umcswtx.org
888.349.4194 Toll Free
210.408.4526 Direct
210.568.2151 Fax

Linda Harrison
Property & Liability
Insurance Manager
leh@umcswtx.org
888.349.4195 Toll Free
210.408.4529 Direct
210.408.4553 Fax

Dear Rev. Stegemueller:

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Please relate to your congregation how proud I am to be associated with a church which is so generous and committed to living out its faith as a part of the United Methodist Church. During 2009 you were one of 279 church in the Southwest Texas Conference which gave 100% of their connectional share of ministries. As a conference, we gave 95.92% of all funds apportioned to our churches.

This year particularly, your generosity makes me proud. Because of the apportioned funds which were received, The United Methodist Church was able to immediately be in Haiti after the tragic earthquake. We are able to support the survivors of that earthquake through UMCOR knowing 100% of the money given goes directly to relief efforts because your apportioned giving supports the "overhead" of the General Board of Global Ministries and UMCOR itself. This especially came home to many of our of the members of the Southwest Texas Conference, when the life of one of our own clergy, the Rev. Clint Rabb, was lost in Haiti. He was in Haiti as a staff member of the Board of Global Ministries working to facilitate ministries in that country in which our church was already involved.

I am also proud because I well know that 2009 was a tough year financially for many of our members and many of our churches. We had difficulty making our dollars stretch far enough to support our families and to support our church. Fortunately, those who were able to do more stepped up and gave more. I also know that many churches gave more to local ministries and support of those in their communities who were in need because of the economy.

You and your church have been faithful servants of the Lord. You have been a blessing to Christ's work in this World. Because of your faithful giving, I am especially proud to be joined with you as members of The United Methodist Church, connected in faith and ministry.

Blessings,

David A. Seilheimer

United Methodist Women,

Your prayers, thoughts and cards have been so supportive to me and Sara. Thank you! Thanks, also, for the ham.

**Sincerely,
Jim Watson**

The Meeting Place

Sunday, March 21

Church Council Meeting

Right after our regular service. Please plan to attend, *we will be discussing "Gather at the River"* for Sunday, April 11, at 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, March 27

Church Cleanup Day, more info to be announced in upcoming bulletins.

**Sunday, March 28 –
Palm Sunday**

Feast and Fellowship Covered Dish Luncheon right after worship service.

Thursday, March 11

The *Medina Family and Friends Relay for Life Team* will hold their meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the large classroom by the Pastors' Office. The American Cancer Society sponsors the Bandera County Relay for Life Walk to be held at Bandera Stadium on Saturday, May 1. Those interested in being on the team or helping with the team please plan to attend.

Tuesday, March 9

The *UMW Sewing Group* will meet at the home of Lu Harrison from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. For more information, please call Lu Harrison 589-2280.



Gather at the River



with Medina United Methodist Church

The Sunday after Easter (April 11th) we will have our Spring Gather at the River Celebration beginning at 11:00 a.m.

More information will be available in the upcoming bulletins.

EASTER EGG HUNT

**CHILDREN'S COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT
SATURDAY, APRIL 3 AT 10:00 A.M.**



We need dozens of filled plastic Easter Eggs to be brought to the church before Friday, April 2. On Friday, April 2 at 10:00 a.m., in the Fellowship Hall, we will be filling Easter Bags for the children – anyone interested in helping please join us.