



## Guest Columnist...Rev. Nathaniel (Hank) Hankins

Before I start my article, I want to thank Bobby Lacy for providing a first-rate, quality Newspaper for our community and for allowing me this opportunity to participate.

And now, in the spirit of the Easter season, we are reminded that before there was a Resurrection, there had to be the agony of the Cross. I am writing this article at the beginning of Holy Week, and I am reminded of Mark 14:12-15:47 that we read in church on Palm Sunday. As we read about Jesus' betrayal, desertion by His inner circle, His suffering, humiliation, death and burial, we can not help but identify with His agony. As we read or listen to all that happened to our Lord and Savior, tears start flowing that are hard to contain. We feel the pain of that crown of thorns that was pushed down upon His head, causing blood to flow down His face. We feel His thirst. And we feel His sense of loneliness and separation, as he cried out, "E'lo-i, E'lo-i, la'ma sabachtha'ni?" which means, "My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me?" At times like these, we remember that old Negro spiritual, "Were you there when they crucified



*Rev. Nathaniel "Hank" Hankins  
and wife Mary*

my Lord?" Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. "Were you there when they crucified my Lord?" **His pain for our gain!**

Jesus gave His life not only that we would have everlasting life, but have abundant life while on this life's journey. We need to give Him thanks for all of the blessings that are bestowed upon us daily. We all are given opportunities to serve our fellowman,

but the problem we have is our unwillingness to become involved. Those who have been given much, much will be required of them. Think about how much Christ gave. I am thankful for the many opportunities He has given me, and I have found out that, as I yield my will to His, doors continue to open and the blessings continue to flow. I dare you to try Him. He is no respecter of persons, so that means that He loves all of us the same.

When I think about my humble beginnings in Palatka, Florida, serving in the Air Force for twenty years, graduating from St. Mary's University in San Antonio, working and retiring from management with Ethicon, serving two terms as a City Councilman for SMD1, and finally answering the call to ministry after running from it for 59

*Please see Hankins, pg. 7)*

**Hankins** (cont'd from pg. 3)

years, I am reminded that with God, all things are possible. After answering the call, I learned from my sister, that my mother had been praying that I would be a minister, even while she was still carrying me in her womb. I thank God that His hand has been on me all of those years. He has allowed me to complete my credential requirements at Course of Study at Perkins School of Theology on the SMU campus. He has allowed us to travel to Israel, the Holy Land. He has allowed us to travel to Brighton, England as delegates to the 18<sup>th</sup> World Methodist Conference, and to return safely in August 2001, just one month before 9/11. I am thankful and realize that it is only by the Grace of God that we have come this far. My wife, Mary, and I have been involved in this community for over 28 years, and it is our desire to contribute and make it all that it can be. I have enjoyed my past association with the Ministerial Alliance, being the Pastor of Wesley United Methodist Church from 1994-1998, and my appointment to churches in Corpus Christi and Austin. It was good to return to San Angelo after what I thought was my retirement from Pastoral ministry. I thank God for the opportunity I have had to work with Rev. Elsie Ferguson at Wesley, and even though I will be leaving, I will still be connected in ministry with them. But now, God has other plans for me, and I am thankful for the opportunity to be an Associate Pastor at First United Methodist Church.

This will be a first for that congregation and I thank God that they are willing and open to change. I look forward to working with my friend of more than 20 years, Rev. Carl Rohlf, along with that congregation where we have many friends. But most of all, I look forward to continue making disciples of Jesus Christ in a plentiful harvest. We ask for your prayers, as we begin this new ministry, officially effective June 1.

I thank God for the opportunity to be involved in bringing unity and harmony to this community. We realize that San Angelo is not all that it can be, but thank God, it is not what it use to be. Thank God that He has given us a role in making this city that we call home a better place to live. Within the next few months, the Task Force appointed by Mayor Rudy Izzard to address racial tension will begin holding Town Hall meetings. I invite you to attend these meetings and make your concerns known. I am convinced that, working together, we can make San Angelo a better place to live.

In remembrance of His suffering, death, burial and resurrection, which is the foundation of our Faith, I say Grace & Peace to all during this Easter Season.

**Hankins** (cont'd from pg. 3)

years, I am reminded that with God, all things are possible. After answering the call, I learned from my sister, that my mother had been praying that I would be a minister, even while she was still carrying me in her womb. I thank God that His hand has been on me all of those years. He has allowed me to complete my credential requirements at Course of Study at Perkins School of Theology on the SMU campus. He has allowed us to travel to Israel, the Holy Land. He has allowed us to travel to Brighton, England as delegates to the 18<sup>th</sup> World Methodist Conference, and to return safely in August 2001, just one month before 9/11. I am thankful and realize that it is only by the Grace of God that we have come this far. My wife, Mary, and I have been involved in this community for over 28 years, and it is our desire to contribute and make it all that it can be. I have enjoyed my past association with the Ministerial Alliance, being the Pastor of Wesley United Methodist Church from 1994-1998, and my appointment to churches in Corpus Christi and Austin. It was good to return to San Angelo after what I thought was my retirement from Pastoral ministry. I thank God for the opportunity I have had to work with Rev. Elsie Ferguson at Wesley, and even though I will be leaving, I will still be connected in ministry with them. But now, God has other plans for me, and I am thankful for the opportunity to be an Associate Pastor at First United Methodist Church.

This will be a first for that congregation and I thank God that they are willing and open to change. I look forward to working with my friend of more than 20 years, Rev. Carl Rohlf, along with that congregation where we have many friends. But most of all, I look forward to continue making disciples of Jesus Christ in a plentiful harvest. We ask for your prayers, as we begin this new ministry, officially effective June 1.

I thank God for the opportunity to be involved in bringing unity and harmony to this community. We realize that San Angelo is not all that it can be, but thank God, it is not what it use to be. Thank God that He has given us a role in making this city that we call home a better place to live. Within the next few months, the Task Force appointed by Mayor Rudy Izzard to address racial tension will begin holding Town Hall meetings. I invite you to attend these meetings and make your concerns known. I am convinced that, working together, we can make San Angelo a better place to live.

In remembrance of His suffering, death, burial and resurrection, which is the foundation of our Faith, I say Grace & Peace to all during this Easter Season.