

**Cokesbury United Methodist Church**  
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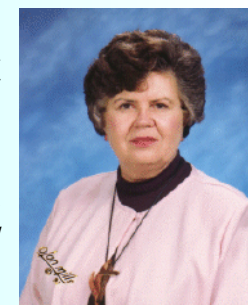
### Prayer Corner

Please keep the following in your prayers: **Marie** Mattiza on the loss of her husband Bob, **Andy** McBride, **Louise** Singleton (Carolyn Breathed's mother), **Sarah** White (Triumph Hospital), **Ken** Pogue (Drew's dad in San Antonio), **Garth** Sloan, **Ruth** Parker and **Orlean** Garret (Helen Perry's sisters), **Carl** Purfurst, **Dot** Margheim, **Ruth** Chase (Linda Detwiler's mother), and **Dane** Dull.

Those with prayer requests for the Prayer Chain are encouraged to contact the coordinator, Cathie Goforth. Her e-mail address is chg10306@aol.com. Her phone number is 281-484-0928. You can also leave requests with the church office at 281-484-9243.

### From The Pastor

I ran across an image recently that I used about this time last year, and I thought it was very appropriate for our time of saying "goodbye." It's from Larry Kreider's book, *Bottom Line Faith*. He writes about the label on the back of a bottle of salad dressing. It says, "Shake well before using." Sometimes God picks us up like a bottle of salad dressing and shakes us well. It often disturbs our peace. Many times we'd rather sit comfortably by the fire and not be shaken. An unshaken bottle creates a sour sediment like that at the bottom of a big vat. This was the picture of Moab in Jeremiah 48:11: *Moab has been at rest from youth, like wine left on its dregs, and not poured from one jar to another. She has not gone into exile, so she tastes as she did and her aroma is unchanged.*



When we are not shaken up and poured out, we lose our flavor. God restores by shaking, and it is a sign of God's involvement in our lives. God doesn't shake us just for the sake of shaking. There is a reason. Our lives, and our church is being rearranged, and we can trust that it will be stronger, better and even more flavorful as a result. Rev. Sandra Smith is the new Cokesbury pastor. I have known and admired her for many years and could not be more pleased. You will love her, too. She has tremendous gifts and graces for ministry and will lead Cokesbury forward into a positive and magnificent future!

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### Rev. Smith Appointed to Cokesbury

Gail Ford Smith, District Superintendent, met with the SPRC Committee of Cokesbury and announced the appointment of Rev. Sandra Smith as senior pastor, replacing Rev. Sara Owen-Gemoets who is retiring. Rev. Smith currently serves as the senior pastor at Bay Harbour UMC and has held this position since January, 2001. She was born in Highland, Illinois, and is a long-time Texas resident. She earned a B.A. degree from Trinity University in San Antonio and holds a Master of Theology from the Perkins School of Theology at SMU.

Prior to coming to Bay Harbour, Sandra's extensive background includes pastoral positions at Cypress Trails UMC in Spring, St. Andrews UMC in Mount Pleasant, Lakeview UMC in Port Arthur, and Asbury UMC in Beaumont. She served as associate pastor of Pollard Memorial UMC in Tyler and Westminster UMC in Houston. Sandra's participation at the conference level includes positions as Director, General Council on Christian Unity and Inter-religious Concerns, and Member, Texas Conference Board of Pensions. She also served as a delegate to the Jurisdictional Conference in 1996 and as a delegate to the General and Jurisdictional Conference in 2000.

Sandra is married to Reverend Randy Smith, also a United Methodist minister, who currently serves as senior pastor of Deer Park UMC. Sandra and Randy have one son, Nathan. She enjoys reading, mysteries, and needlepoint, and is an avid Dallas Cowboy fan.

### Men's Shrimp Boil Is This Saturday

The Cokesbury Methodist Men will be conducting a Shrimp Boil on Saturday, April 22. The shrimp will be deheaded, boiled and cooled, ready to eat. They will be packaged in one pound bags to take home.

You can pick up your shrimp between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 22 at the church. The cost of the shrimp is \$9.50 per pound. Remember to order for your friends, neighbors and relatives. Funds raised from this activity will go towards the support of the church.

We are asking all men to join us Saturday, April 22 at 7:00 a.m. to assist in the cooking, weighing, packaging and distribution of the shrimp.

### In Sympathy

We were saddened to learn of the death of long-time Cokesbury member Bob Matiza last week. Marie Mattiza is his wife. Services were scheduled to be held Tuesday, April 18 at Cokesbury at 2:00 p.m.

We extend our condolences to Marie and to the rest of the family.

### Cokesbury's Statement of Purpose

Learning to serve God and humankind in Jesus' name

### Palm Sunday Was A Joyous Time

It was an honor to participate in four baptisms on Palm Sunday. The following young people were baptized and are shown below from left to right: Todd Baumann, Andrew Parker, Simi Indupalli and Anil Indupalli.

Welcome to the Cokesbury 2006 Confirmation Class. Confirmed on Palm Sunday and shown below are top row (L-R) Mandy Hite, Andrew Parker and Kaitlyn Wallis; bottom row: Todd Baumann, Brandon Johnson and Simi Indupalli.



### Cokesbury To Honor Sister Sara

#### Retirement Party Planned For Friday, May 12

In honor of Rev. Dr. Sara Owen-Gemoets and on behalf of the entire congregation of Cokesbury United Methodist Church, the United Methodist Women are hosting a retirement reception and appreciation service on Friday, May 12 beginning at 6:30 p.m. The appreciation service will begin at 8 p.m.

Everyone is invited. Please bring finger foods to share in a nice serving plate or bowl. Fruit trays, dips, chips, sandwiches etc. Our church is providing a beautiful cake for this special occasion. This reception and service is a dress up event. Let us all wear Sunday church attire and come and wish Sister Sara God's blessings for her future and thank her for her committed service to Cokesbury.

Sister Sara has served as a United Methodist Minister for 27 years. She has been Cokesbury's pastor since June of 2000. She has led us with her enthusiasm for the love of God and his Church. She has been an example of Jesus' dedication of service to others. We have been blessed in many ways by her ministry at Cokesbury.

### Youth Director Preaches This Sunday

Peter Bonanno, Cokesbury Youth Director, will preach on Sunday, April 23, at all three services. Peter has come to our church from New Hampshire, and is already an important part of the life of Cokesbury. The youth program is growing under his leadership, and it will be good to hear him in the pulpit. Sister Sara is taking a week of vacation, and will return to the pulpit on Sunday, April 30.



**April 23--**The flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in honor of the anniversary of **Larry and Amanda Lohec** from Savannah Rose Lohec.

**April 30--**The flowers this week are given in memory of **George E. Ellington's** birthday, from Lou Ellington.

## Rainbows Along the Way

When the Fog Lifted

The story goes that in June, 1815, the British nation awaited word of the battle that was waging across the Channel in Belgium where the Duke of Wellington was leading an army of allies against Napoleon. Arrangements had been made to get the latest news of the battle. Messengers would come by ship to the English coast, and then the news would be forwarded by the use of semaphore flags wig-wagged over the miles to London. There, from the height of the Winchester cathedral, semaphore flags would signal to a crowd that had gathered to await the news.

On June 18, the long awaited news arrived, and the signal flags began to spell out the message: "Wellington Defeated." However, just as the anxious crowds waited for the remaining letters to be flashed, a sudden bank of fog descended and they could see no more.

Wellington defeated! Was that the message? It seemed to be and soon the word spread. All hope was gone! And so it seemed, until the fog lifted, and they saw the rest of message: "Wellington defeated – the enemy!" Their gnawing misery had turned to joy. Defeat had become victory.

Likewise, the disciples felt a genuine sense of loss and gloom as they saw their Master buried and his tomb closed. Defeat seemed assured. Yet they were like the people who only received half the message. On the first day of the week, they got the other half of the news when the stone was rolled away. Defeated? At first, it would seem so, but just a few hours later came the rest of the message. When the fog lifted!

-Anne Adams

## Ride for Kids Event Needs Your Help

Many of you know that I ride a motorcycle. What you may not know is that I use my motorcycle in several events during the year to raise money for children or to give children toys at Christmas by participating in Toy Runs throughout the Houston area. An event that is special to me is the Ride For Kids, which benefits the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation, U.S. The Ride For Kids event for Houston is April 30 and begins at the Pasadena Fair Grounds that morning. For a few years I have made an offer to those in my Sunday School Class, but I am opening it up to everyone this year. Here is the deal....

If you would like to make a donation for this cause, please contact me at home at 281-992-0938 or my cell at 281-844-9090 or mail to Bob Newlin, 3910 Oakwood Drive North, Pearland, Tx. 77581. Please make checks payable to the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation or (PBTFFUS). Please include contact info in case you are hoping to win the ride. Here is the BONUS: I was going to say that the highest donation over \$35.00 would get to ride with me on my Honda Goldwing on April 30 in the Ride For Kids. The highest donation as of April 16 is \$100. If you have the winning donation and you don't want to ride, but want to give your ride to someone else, that is fine too. It is a police escorted ride. You will also get a BBQ lunch as well to be enjoyed during the ceremony after the ride. ALL DONATIONS MUST BE MADE AND COLLECTED BY APRIL 26. For more information on this cause go to [www.rideforkids.com](http://www.rideforkids.com). I hope you are the one on the back of my motorcycle on April 30. You won't be disappointed. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me using the information above. On behalf of the Kids and the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation, thank you.

-Bob Newlin

## By The Numbers

### April 16-Easter Sunday

Worship Attendance 8:30.....	143
Worship Attendance 9:45.....	115
Worship Attendance 11:00.....	297
Total Worship Attendance.....	555



## Treasurer's Report

### Giving for April 2

Budgeted	10,291.60
Bond Fund	705.00
CDO Income	90.00
Youth Minister Fund	364.00
Designated Giving	199.71

Total Giving for 4/2/2006 11,650.31

### Giving for April 9

Budgeted	7,784.47
Bond Fund	310.00
CDO Income	6,000.00
Youth Minister Fund	315.00
Designated Giving	3,687.40

Total Giving for 4/9/2006 18,096.87

### Bank Balances as of April 16

Operating balance:	1,761.28
Bond fund	4,212.24
Designated Fund	22,109.19

-Sandy Hinson, Treasurer

## Finance/Council

On Monday, April 24, the Finance Committee will meet at 6 p.m. and the Church Council will meet at 7 p.m. for their normal monthly meetings. All church members as well as committee members are invited to attend.

## Future Deadlines

The deadlines for our next few editions of the Courier are shown below:

Items to Paper	Paper Issue Date
May 1	May 5
May 15	May 19
May 29	June 2

## Mother-Daughter Banquet Was A Success!

We are very thrilled and delighted to announce that this year's Mother-Daughter banquet raised over \$2500 for our local women's shelter, The Bridge. In attendance were 135 lovely ladies and young girls. Yes, 135 people for a dinner in our Fellowship Hall!! This was the largest attendance to date. There were a few moments of panic when it was realized that we had more ladies than anticipated but due to the swift moves of several people, everyone was soon seated.

Some of the evening's highlights included the winner of the ugliest doll contest (Kris Wallis) and the biggest doll winner (Beth Northrup). The winner of the oldest doll contest went to Jo Felts. Ms. Felts' doll was an amazing 140 years old. The doll originally belonged to her great grandmother. Recognition of the most generations was made to the families of Katie Kuhlman, Melissa Loftin and Gloria Pace, who all had 4 generations present that evening.

A jar of Peggy Smith's toffee sold for \$60 during the live auction led by Jerry Yeaney. One generous woman spent \$200 during the live and silent auctions. During the doll sharing, Sue Smith told the story of finding her mother's doll in a suitcase under a stairway. She surprisingly found the doll while cleaning her mother's home shortly after her death. She will continue to be a cherished doll!

What a joy it is to work with the people of Cokesbury! This worthwhile and memorable event would not have been possible without the many kind and generous individuals who donated their talents, time and money. Many, many hearty thanks to all of those who were involved in the 2006 Mother-Daughter Banquet.

-Charlene Provence for Cokesbury UMW

## Helping Hands

The following have agreed to help with Helping Hands the next two weeks:

**Fourth Sunday:** Jo Felts, Suzanne Houck, Janice Johnson, Pat Schurtz, Faye Stafford, Kris Wallis and Carol and Jerry Yeaney.

**Fifth Sunday:** New Beginnings Class

## Upcoming Youth Events

UMARMY June 11-June 17  
JUMMP - July 10 - July 14

Lakeview - July 3 - July 7  
Schlitterbahn - July 19 - July 21

## Come to Vacation Bible School 2006

### Adventure of the Treasure Seeker: Exploring God's Promises

Mark your calendars! The count down to Vacation Bible School 2006 has begun! This summer's program will be held June 26 through June 30 each evening from 6:00 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. Vacation Bible School is offered to all children from 3 years of age to those entering the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. This year's program combines the world of archaeology with the discovery of treasures in the Bible. Each day, children will take part in an actual dig and find treasures that remind them of the Bible story and God's promise for that day. For more information or to volunteer to help bring this adventure to life, call Laurel Johnson at 281-481-8125.

## Join Our Youth Choir

All youth, 6th grade and older, are invited to participate in the Youth Choir, directed by Nikki Sikora. They meet every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. and are usually through by 7:30 or 8. They sing at the Contemporary Service once a month.

## Adult Class News

### Becomers (Room 252)

After we complete our discussion about recent incidents of persecution against Christians, our next Bible study topic will be Christians' servanthood. We welcome adults of all ages.

### New Disciples (Room 166)

Our class is open to anyone interested in a Bible-based discussion group. Come join us!

### New Beginnings (Room 156)

The class lesson will be How to Succeed in Evangelism, led by Darrel Raines.

### Omega-(Room 153-11 a.m.)

We meet at 11:00 next to the elevator. Come join us.

### Wesley Class (Conference Room)

We are studying the book, *90 Minutes in Heaven*. Currently we are working on the Heifer project.

### Adult Bible Study (Room 210)

We have started the study of the Ten Mighty Acts in *Exodus*. The Tenth Mighty Act and the beginning of the move to the wilderness will be our next class. It will be led by Anne and Tom Adams.

### Good News Class (Room 153)

We welcome seniors to join us.