

THE COKESBURY COURIER

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Cokesbury United Methodist Church

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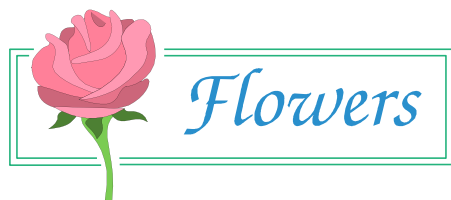
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Baptism



Pictured above is baby Malia Anne Isaacson along with parents Allen and Carolyn Isaacson. Malia was baptized on July 30. The Isaacsons have been visiting Cokesbury. When you see them next, please be sure to give them a big Cokesbury welcome.



August 13--The flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in memory of Juanita Roder from Charles Roder, Dianne and Charlie.

August 20--The flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in honor of Mildred Lohec's birthday from Larry, Amanda and Savannah.

Lost Wheelchair

A wheelchair that has a brown seat and back has turned up missing recently from Cokesbury. On the back is written "Krafka" in dark Marks-A-Lot. There may be one tire missing as the last time it was seen a tire was missing.

If you find it, please call the Church Office at 281-484-9243 or Jim Krafka at 281-481-3102.

Prayer Corner

Please keep the following persons in your prayers: **Robert** Ferguson (Lisa Warren's dad), **Luella** Sims, **Anthony** Marshall (friend of Linda Simmons), **Devin** Lemaster (Johnny and Kathy's grandson), **Molly** Evans, the children in the Shriner's Burn Center in Galveston, our soldiers in Iraq, **Jack** Williams (father of Rick), **Ruth** Chase (Linda Detwiler's mom), Donna Jordan's father-in-law, and **Aaron** Marker, son of former members Cindy and Gary Marker.

Those with prayer requests for the Prayer Chain are encouraged to contact the church office at 281-484-9243.

Saints on Earth and Those Above

The Worship Committee is starting a project to be in place by the first Sunday in November, which will be All Saints Day. This will be a "Wreath of Saints" and will be displayed in a prominent location.

We are asking you to bring a scrap of fabric (at least 8 by 8 in.) that is significant to you. This could be a piece of fabric that reminds you of a friend or family member who has passed away (a Saint above). If you do not have a piece of fabric, you can always purchase a small piece of fabric that reminds you of that person.

The fabric will be cut into people-silhouettes and placed on a large fabric panel. The panel will be prepared and displayed on All Saints Day. It will symbolize the gathering of all saints on earth and those above as they surround the throne of God.

There is a box in the Commons area and one in the hall by the narthex for these fabric pieces. Please bring them as soon as possible so that we can begin to prepare this banner to represent all the members of Cokesbury United Methodist Church.

-Danna Whorton

Flower Calendar Dates Available

The following dates are still available on the flower calendar: September 24, October 22, and December 31. Please contact the church office if you would like to provide flowers on one of these dates.

Cokesbury's Statement of Purpose

Learning to serve God and humankind in Jesus' name

From The Pastor

My husband Randy and I got married in 1974. It was a time when hand-crafted items like macrame and beadwork and primitive art were very "in." Consequently, we got some of the strangest wedding presents imaginable

One of the oddest was given to us by Randy's seminary roommate. It's a candle holder (this had to be explained to us). It's made of dark brown clay, shaped roughly like a brandy snifter. It's rugged in texture, and down the sides of the bowl there are deep cracks that open all the way through to its center.

I know I'm not fully describing its oddness, but take it from me-it's not pretty. I'll bring it to church some time and show it to you. It is without a doubt the ugliest candle holder I've ever seen in my life.

Until, that is, a votive candle is placed inside that candle holder. When the candle is lit, the light shines through the cracks in its (really) ugly brown clay walls. When the light shines through, the appearance of the candle holder no longer matters.

The light is all you see.

In the same way, we as followers of Christ are deeply flawed. Our brokenness is evident to all who see us. But when we allow the light of Christ to shine through us, all around us can see it, and give glory to God.

In fact, it's the broken places that make the light beautiful.

So don't be dismayed by your flaws. You can't fix them. Instead, ask God to make you a person through whom his light shines. Someone among God's children needs to see that light through you.

I hope to see you Sunday. We'll be talking more about "Life Among the Believers."

Love from your pastor,
Sandra Smith

P.S. If at all possible, I hope you will be in worship on Sunday, August 27. I want to tell you a story that has been very important in my life. No, it does not involve a cat. But it does explain my whole approach to God's Church. I hope you will be present.



Ushers and Greeters Are Needed

The Worship Committee is seeking individual, youth, couples and families who would be interested in helping out as either ushers (fill ins) and as greeters. A sign up sheet is available in the narthex and the commons area. Please feel free to sign up and be a part of the worship service. Training will be coming very soon from a wonderful person from Conroe.

We would love to see families be greeters. It would bring a smile to anyone's face to see a child greet and open the door (may need some assistance). All are welcome. Please pray about this request and open your heart to the service of God.

We want all who come to Cokesbury to see that we are a loving and welcoming church.

-Danna Whorton

Disciple Bible Study Coming This Fall

Disciple is a series of Bible studies that are scheduled at Cokesbury to overlay the school year. Everyone reading this has a part to play.

If you haven't had a Disciple study, sign up. You will know more about the Bible, the world, Cokesbury, your friends and yourself than you thought you ever could, and it is over before baseball heats up, so it won't get in the way of anything important.

If you've had leader training, let me know. I'm going to need your help.

Sign up sheets will be available soon in the narthex. Watch for them.

Let me hear from you. My e-mail is jkunkel@laurcat.com Call me at these numbers: 281-484-8853 home, 281-898-0576 cell, and 281-457-3205 office

Jim Kunkel

Help Wanted

We are searching for a director for the Young Singing Angels. This choir consists of 3-5 year olds eager to sing about God and his creations. No choir experience is necessary. We will offer on the job training! Only requirement is a love for God and his children.

We are also searching for a refreshment mom to be in charge of organizing the refreshments every Wednesday night after children's choir. You even get to sample the leftovers with Peggy and me. Both of these opportunities are vital to the success of our program. Please let me know if you would be interested in either of these positions.

-Donna Bane 281-326-0881

Rainbows Along The Way

Following the Path (Psalm 119:1-8)

"I try to walk at least six miles a day," Sarah said to Nancy, "but it's often a problem."
"Because you can't find the time?"

"No, it's not that, it's just that I walk on sidewalks around my neighborhood and I don't always feel safe," Sarah explained. "Sometimes the sidewalks are uneven and I have to watch my step. Other times, people have parked their cars on the sidewalk, and I have to go around them. I've seen other people walking in the street but that's not always safe what with the crazy drivers around here."

"But why don't you go over to the park and use what they call the hike and bike trail," Nancy asked.

"That would be boring. I don't want to walk round and round in a circle."

"It's not like that. The path starts in the park but then takes you along the creek then behind some houses and ends up at a lake. You do cross some streets but that's all. It's paved all the way, there are mile markers and it's maintained and patrolled by the county. It's a safe route; you know where you're starting and where you'll end up. Better than the street. You ought to try it."

Just as Sarah wanted to find a route that was sure and safe, in a spiritual sense so do we, as we seek a safe and secure life path. For on both our walking path or our life path, we want the security of knowing where we're going, and where we'll end up, and that there will be no surprises or unexpected detours.

The Psalmist used the image of comparing our following God's will to walking a secure path. So as we "walk" in God's will, then we need never be confused or insecure. Though we may not always know where the path leads, we know we are safe while we follow it, and we know where and how it ends - with him.

Are you staying on the path of God's will?

"Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying: 'This is the way, walk in it.'" Isaiah 30:21 (NIV)

-Anne Adams

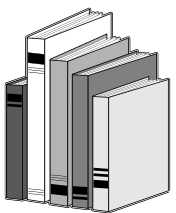
Thanks to All the Painters

A belated thank you to all of the people who helped paint the walls in most of the old building excluding the sanctuary and narthex. The downstairs work was completed just before Easter. The upstairs portion was completed about a month ago. Special thanks to Johnny Lemaster and Jon Akkerman who organized the work

Covenant Prayer Group To Form

The intercessory prayer group that met a few months ago made a commitment to continue with our spiritual growth. We will be forming a Covenant Group. Covenant groups were first founded by John Wesley. A Covenant group is a group of about 5 to 10 people that meet once per week to try and help each other meet goals established by the group. The covenant will have about 10 points that should improve a person's Christian life. This covenant is between the members of the group and God. If you are interested, contact Laura Bradley or Charlene Provence.

Check Out Our Church Library



Looking for some reading material, video or literature for yourself or for your Sunday School class? Check out the church library located just by Pastor Sandra's office. Thanks to Carole Krafka, Donna Klassen and Kathy Lemaster, it has been straightened and reorganized to make it easier to use. It will operate on the honor system. If you would care to use an item from the library, take it and return it when you are through.

Helping Hands

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

Second Sunday: Linda Garies, Laurel Johnson, Billie Kestler, Carolyn Lofland, Herb Parker, Cathy Pleasants, Charlene Provence and Lois Seeley.

Third Sunday: Anna Aguilar, Linda & Carl Detwiler, Betty Grigsby, Emilyn & Jim Harris, Karla Parker, Linda Rogers, Martha Van Krigenbergh, Fran Wright and Ed and Danna Whorton.

Future Deadlines

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

Items to Paper	Paper Issue Date
August 21	August 25
September 4	September 8
September 18	September 22

By The Numbers

August 6

Worship Attendance 8:30.....	64
Worship Attendance 9:45.....	59
Worship Attendance 11:00.....	130
Total Worship Attendance.....	253
Sunday School Attendance.....	121

Training Set for Our Sound System

Additional operators are needed for the sanctuary sound system in order to make sure that all events requiring the sound system will have an operator scheduled for that event.

A training session has been scheduled for August 15, 2006, at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. This training is necessary so that additional people can be added to the list of qualified operators.

The system is used during two worship services each week plus during all special services. A list of all of the people that are trained will be maintained. Please contact Jim Krafka at 281-481-3102 to sign up for this training or with any questions you may have.

SeAM Needs Toothpaste

Becomers Class members encourage all Cokesbury families to contribute to SeAM regularly by purchasing item(s) of greatest need there. This month's theme is "Oral Care August" or "Aquafresh August" because SeAM needs toothpaste for the families it serves. It doesn't matter what brand you buy. Just place it in the "soup bin" in Cokesbury's kitchen.

As we reach out by participating in this manner, we pray that the recipients of our giving will know Jesus's love through us.

-- Cathy Pleasants



Treasurer's Report

Giving for July 23

Budgeted.....	\$6253.00
Bond Fund.....	\$335.00
Youth Minister Giving.....	\$500.00
Designated Giving.....	\$725.00
Total Giving for July 23.....	\$7,943.00

Giving for July 30

Budgeted.....	\$5712.00
Bond Fund.....	\$3965.00
Designated Giving.....	\$647.00
Interest Income.....	\$198.00
Total Giving for July 30.....	\$6,872.00

Bank Balances as of August 7

Operating Balance.....	\$1,864.00
Bond Fund.....	\$3,965.00
Designated Fund.....	\$14,770
T-Mobile Account.....	\$39,598

Apportionments are paid through May.

We are having a difficult time paying bills and apportionments for the summer. Our electric bill for the month of July was \$3,638.00 and for August it is \$4,451.00. Please remember Cokesbury in your giving during the "summer slump" when our giving drops off.

-Sandy Hinson, Treasurer



Meet David the Tab Collector

David Pogue, the 6 year old son of Jennifer and Andrew Pogue, is very much dedicated to helping others. His excitement about collecting and saving the pull tabs for Cokesbury is easily noticed by family and friends as he goes about his campaign to gather as many tabs as possible. These tabs go to the Ronald McDonald House. Help him out by bringing your tabs to church and depositing them in the big plastic container.

Adult Class News

Becomers (Room 252)

Our next "Point of Reference" study article is "Developing a Heart for God." We are preparing to order books for our upcoming study, "Who is God in Three Persons?" We welcome adults of all ages.

New Disciples (Room 166)

Our class is open to anyone interested in a Bible-based discussion group. 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.)

Our lesson series is on how to manage money led by Adrienne Elings.

Wesley Class (Conference Room)

We are studying the book, *Jesus Did It Anyway*, by Kent Keith.

Adult Bible Study (Room 210)

We will be studying Chapters 30,31, and 32 of Exodus. We will not meet on the last two Sundays of August and Labor Day weekends.

Good News Class (Room 153)

We will be studying the book "Who Jesus Is" for the next 13 weeks.