

Cokesbury United Methodist Church
10030 Scarsdale Boulevard
Houston, TX 77089
(281) 484-9243
www.cumchouston.org



Congratulations to Kevin and Alison Myers on the birth of their baby boy, Steven Keith Myers, on August 18. Steven weighed 9 pounds, 7 ounces and was 21 inches long. Mother and son are doing well.

Holy Smoke

Amazing things happen when churches catch on fire--spiritually speaking, of course. Igniting Ministry is the United Methodist Church's training event for churches who want to grow and fulfill their mission to make disciples for Jesus Christ. And Igniting Ministry is coming to Cokesbury.

Texas Conference Igniting Ministry trainer Jan Floro, of Tomball, will lead us through three training experiences, beginning Monday, September 25 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. This first event will help us look at how we can become a more welcoming congregation. Everyone interested is invited to attend. Cost is \$10 per person.

The other two training sessions will lead us through specific, concrete ways to reach out into our community, inviting others to join us in our worship, mission and service to the community.

When we complete all three training events, we will officially become a "Welcoming Church" certificate holder. But far more importantly, we will have learned and implemented some ways to help our church grow into its potential.

Singing Angels Have A New Director

A great big welcome to Jennifer Pogue who has agreed to take on the responsibilities of director for The Young Singing Angels. Jennifer is very active in the Contemporary Service and is in charge of the church suppers as well as the "Common Grounds" coffee and game nights here at Cokesbury. She is very excited about leading the little ones in song and praise. Her choir will consist of Pre-K and Kindergarten children and will start on Wednesday, September 13 in room 156. Welcome Jennifer!!

Donna Bane

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

Prayer Corner

Please keep the following persons in your prayers: **Robert** Ferguson (Lisa Warren's dad), **Jay** Ricketts, **Anthony** Marshall (friend of Linda Simmons), **Chris** Sonnier, **Luella** Sims, **Jack** Williams, **Molly** Evans, **Jack** Williams (father of Rick), and **Ruth** Chase (Linda Detwiler's mom).

A prayer of thanksgiving for the birth of **Nicolas** Charles Lofland, grandson of Ed and Carolyn Lofland, and also **Laney** Jay Thompson, daughter of Andrew and Nikki Thompson and granddaughter of Royce and Debbie Thompson. Those with prayer requests for the Prayer Chain should call the church office at 281-484-9243.

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From The Pastor

Surely Mother Teresa is one of the most influential of the modern saints. Her devotion to the poor, the helpless, and the dying reminds us of our obligation to care for our brothers and sisters in Christ. In serving, she taught us the power of love.

How did she become such a beacon of love?

In her own words, she learned about love from a 4 year old boy, the child of Hindu parents.

At her orphanage and hospital, they had run completely out of sugar, not an uncommon occurrence. That doesn't seem too important to us, but to those who were suffering, who had so few pleasures in life, the lack of sugar was no small matter.

Somehow, this little boy learned about the lack of sugar. He said to his parents, "I will not eat sugar for 3 days. I will give my sugar to Mother Teresa."

His parents could not believe that he would make such a sacrifice, but he did. On the 3rd day, his mother and father brought him to Mother Teresa.

She wrote, "He was so small, and in his hand he had a little bottle of sugar. How much can a 4 year old child eat? But the amount he could have eaten for 3 days, he brought.

"He could scarcely pronounce my name, but yet he gave and the love he put in the giving was beautiful." (*My Life for the Poor*, by Mother Teresa)

That small bottle made no difference at all to the orphans and the dying. But it made a difference to Mother Teresa. In his small but true sacrifice, she caught a vision of self-giving love, a vision which sustained her all her life long.

In the same way, the sacrifices we make for love are never wasted.

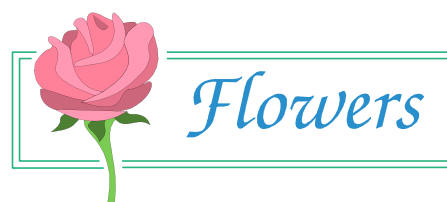
When we give something up for God--no matter how great or how small--God blesses it and multiplies it as he multiplied the bread and fish to feed thousands of people on a hillside.

I ask you to consider, along with me, how we can offer something to God out of love--a sacrifice that will bless God's heart.

I know that God is waiting to honor what we offer him. I can't wait to see what's going to happen when we imitate one small boy

Love from your pastor,
Sandra Smith

P.S. I very much hope that you will be in worship on Sunday, August 27. I will be concluding the sermon series on "Life Among the Believers" with a story that is very important to me. The sermon title is "Why I Never Worry - About the Church." Please make every effort to be present.



August 27--The flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in honor of Jim Bane's birthday from Donna Bane.

September 3--The flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in honor of Larry Lohec's birthday from Mildred Lohec.

CDO Program Has Openings

The Children's Day Out program here at Cokesbury has a few more openings for the fall program. Marcie Devine, the new CDO director, says that there are openings for nursery and 3 year old children, and a couple of openings for 4 year olds. The program begins on September 5, and parent orientation is on September 11. Please contact Marcie at 281-484-5951 if you would like your child to participate or if you know of someone who might want their child to attend.

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

Just Passing By

A Summer Reflection

For the last nine years I have been in charge of decorating the big bulletin board in Cokesbury's mid-hallway. I took over this duty from my dear friend, Ora Stafford, when she had a stroke. Ora passed away in 2001. I am sure that she is now decorating heaven's gate or writing articles for God's Heavenly Courier. When Ora went to heaven, we at Cokesbury who knew her know that everyone in heaven celebrated "big time."

I truly enjoy decorating our bulletin board. There are times when I decorate the board that no one is in the mid-hallway except me. Most of the time however, there are Cokesburians passing by. We are all at church doing God's work--not anything listed on the church calendar, not anything big or grand. We are just doing God's work that makes us happy and we in turn hope makes others happy too!

When I decorated the bulletin board several weeks ago in August for the coming fall season, I came in contact with several Cokesbury friends. Diana Brown, our church secretary, passed my way. She is always so nice and friendly. How lucky we are to have her at Cokesbury. Not long after Diana came by, our pastor, Sandra Smith, came up the hallway. "Oh Mary, you are the one who does the bulletin board--Thank you!" she said. She visited with me a short time. She has a cheerful voice and a happy expression. Sandra then left the church and returned before I had finished. She brought back a lovely lily flower arrangement for our new Children's Day Out Director, Marcie Devine. We are fortunate to have Rev. Sandra Smith as our new pastor. She will lead us in many new and exciting ministries for our Lord.

Also passing by that afternoon were our new Children's Day Out director, Marcie Devine, and Linda Garies. They were making plans for the fall CDO program. Later Tom Adams, Jay Standridge, Pat Richardson, Marna Seaman, Jean Bonds, and Carol Yeane passed by. They are all members of our Holy Folders who fold all our bulletins for worship services. Kirsten Raines passed by later on. She had been practicing some music for a later church service.

All this passing by took place on a summer Wednesday afternoon at Cokesbury--just happy people doing God's work, not scheduled on any calendar--doing God's work with joy--just passing by.

Mary Short

Children's Choirs Recruit Volunteers

Carolyn Dickenson has agreed to be our Refreshment Mom (Grandma) for the children's choirs on Wednesday nights. She will be in charge of getting parents to sign up for refreshments, readying the refreshments for the children and kitchen clean up. She will also be in charge of collecting monies for choir books and CD's that The Cokesbury Kids will need for their plays.

Also, Karla Parker and Melissa Loftin will be our robe moms. They will be in charge of sizing the children for their robes, distributing them at performances and the general up keep of the choir robes. Thanks Ladies!!

Donna Bane

Youth Get Dirty

The MYF went to Friendswood UMC on August 20 for a Matt Neely concert and a mud pit extravaganza! Matt and his band rocked the house (with over 300 kids!) and afterward we all had a blast playing water games, eating trough-fulls of ice cream, climbing the rock wall and of course getting muddy! The Friendswood Fire Department hosed everyone off at the end. In the photo at left, our own Andrew Parker and Kaitlyn Wallis showed how much they love mud!



Upcoming events:

Friday, August 25-Common Grounds-6:30-10:30
 Sunday, August 27-MYF Pool Party and Parents Planning Meeting at Wallis' house 5:30-8:00 p.m.
 Friday, September 1-Game Night 6:00-midnite
 Friday, September 8-Lock-In
 Sunday, September 10-Youth Sunday

-Peter Bonanno



Treasurer's Report

Giving for August 6

Budgeted.....\$9,776.80
 Bond Fund.....\$641.00
 CDO Income.....\$751.60
 Designated Giving.....\$104.50
 Total Giving for August 6...\$11,273.90

Giving for August 13

Budgeted.....\$7,542.65
 Bond Fund.....\$95.00
 CDO Income.....\$930.00
 Youth Minister Giving.....\$10.00
 Designated Giving.....\$60.00
 Total Giving for August 13...\$8,627.65

Bank Balances as of August 19

Operating Balance.....\$663.86
 Bond Fund.....\$2,759.39
 Designated Fund.....\$14,890.52
 T-Mobile Account.....\$39,597.60

Apportionments are paid through May.
 Sandy Hinson, Treasurer

**Children's Choir
 Begins
 Wednesday
 September 13
 6:30 p.m.**

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.

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

Traditional Worship 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Contemporary Worship 9:45 a.m.

Sunday School at 9:45 and 11:00 a.m.

Cokesbury's Statement of Purpose

Learning to serve God and
 humankind in Jesus' name

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.

Helping Hands

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

Fourth Sunday: Jo Felts, Suzanne Houck, Janice Johnson, Peggy Smith, Faye Stafford, Kris Wallis, and Carol Yeane.

First Sunday: Jean Bonds, Charlotte Davis, Gloria Hurley, Sandy Lawrence, Laura Morgan, Lotus Ricketts, Winnie Smith, Shar and Jeff Vochoska, and Carman Wilhite.

Future Deadlines

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

Items to Paper	Paper Issue Date
September 4	September 8
September 18	September 22

By The Numbers

August 20

Worship Attendance 8:30.....	85
Worship Attendance 9:45.....	52
Worship Attendance 11:00.....	130
Total Worship Attendance.....	267
Sunday School Attendance.....	133

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 on Universal Christian Beliefs.

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

Our final lesson in the series on how to manage money will be this Sunday.

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 are studying the book "Who Is Jesus?" and it is being led by Jack Kestler.