

# THE COKESBURY COURIER

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### Cokesbury United Methodist Church

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## Cokesbury's Statement of Purpose

Learning to serve God and humankind in Jesus' name

## Cokesbury Is On Fire!

Wait, don't call the fire department! The fire that is engulfing our church is one we want to burn even brighter. This fire is Igniting Ministry-Cokesbury's effort to become a more welcoming church. You may have seen this fire smoldering the past few Sundays with greeters at our main entrances and at our new guest center in the narthex. These are the first steps in implementing Igniting Ministry. Stay tuned for even more exciting developments as this fire spreads.

You can help fan the flames of the Igniting Ministry fire. We are seeking people who are interested in joining our Greeting Ministry. As a greeter, you are the first Cokesbury contact with our guests. Your kind word and friendly handshake may be the reason they come back again! This is a ministry that is tons of fun but only takes a few minutes. Greeter shifts on Sunday last 25 minutes and then you're finished! You can also help with our Christmas Eve services when we expect many first-time guests from the community. You may be receiving a phone call soon asking if you would be willing to be a greeter. Please prayerfully consider being involved in this important ministry.

-Craig Elings, Co-Chair Hospitality Committee

## Sights, Sounds, and Smells This Sunday

This Sunday evening at 5:30 p.m. will be Cokesbury's annual "Sights, Sounds, and Smells of Christmas" program. It is always a program that is filled with the Christmas Spirit and invites us to remember why we have Christmas in the first place--because of the birth of Jesus.

The festivities begin with a soup, salads, and desserts supper, followed by a short program by the youth and children. We'll carol each other with Christmas songs while we decorate our "gingerbread houses." Please bring a loaf of gingerbread and decorating candies, crackers, cereal, etc. Icing will be provided. Come and enjoy an evening of fun and fellowship.

### Help Decorate the Church

Order Poinsettias For Christmas-\$10 each



In honor/memory of: circle one

\_\_\_\_\_

From

\_\_\_\_\_

Make check out to Cokesbury Altar Guild



## Prayer Corner

Please keep the following persons in your prayers: **Dot** Margheim, **Ed** and **Janis** Shields, **Mildred** Tynes (Amanda Lohec's mother). **Jack** Kestler and family on the death of his sister, Jean Durham, **Jerry** Doan (Suzanne Warren's brother-in-law), **Jay** and **Gloria** Crawford, **Garth** Sloan during his Iraq deployment, **Clint** Keith, **Herb** Parker, **Rachel** Glass, **Martha** Heinrich and **Katy** Kuhlman. . If you have prayer requests for the Prayer Chain, call the church office at 281-484-9243.



**December 3**--The flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in memory of Miriam Peters from Jim and Donna Bane

**December 10**-- The flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in honor of the 16th wedding anniversary of Johnny and Kathy Lemaster.

## From The Pastor

If you were in church the last Sunday in November, you heard a great sermon.

If you came to the contemporary service, you heard Tom Gilman speak about the life of Jesus. He made Jesus come alive for us as a person, a real live human being who lived on a very real part of the planet earth, a man who traveled, taught, spent time with friends, and had a fully human existence.

If you came to one of the traditional services, the sermon came in 3 parts and was told from 3 different perspectives. Don Smith, Catherine Felts and Gary Warner each spoke on the topic "How Jesus Christ Changed My Life."

Each of those 4 people spoke from the heart, and each spoke from a unique life experience. Their stories were very different, and each one spoke volumes about the power of Jesus.

As different as they were, all of the stories had something in common -- in every case, somebody introduced that person to Jesus Christ and made him seem alive and real. His story became their story.

There are lots of folks out there who need to hear the story of Jesus Christ. They need to know that Jesus is real. They need to know that Jesus can change their lives.

If you're thinking it's your job to make sure they hear that story, you're right!

As we move into the Advent and Christmas season, there will be lots of occasions worthy of inviting people to attend. We're got Sights, Sounds and Smells of Christmas coming up next Sunday, and then the children's cantata and then the chancel choir cantata, not to mention 3 services on Christmas Eve. We have the Live Nativity on 2 different dates.

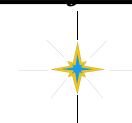
Invite someone to come with you to one of these events -- better yet, offer to pick them up and bring them. People need to know about Jesus. He can change their lives.

I'm looking forward to spending Advent and Christmas with you -- and the guests you bring with you!

Love from your pastor,  
**Sandra Smith**



## Tree of Lights



The Tree of Lights

is being offered

at Cokesbury again this year.

It is a beautiful and meaningful way to remember those people who have touched our lives. You can honor or memorialize someone special by lighting a light on our tree. The tree will be placed on the Scarsdale (front) side in our new courtyard. Fill out the form below, attach your check, and drop it in the offering plate. You can also mail it to the church office. All proceeds will benefit the church.

Watch our tree begin to glow

## Tree of Lights

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

\$25 - Red Light

\$50 - Blue Light  
\$500 - Star at the Top

\$100 - Yellow Light

Please print CLEARLY exactly the way you want your light to appear.

## Have the Youth Wrap Your Presents

Cokesbury's MYF (Methodist Youth Fellowship) is a great group of teens that work hard for their money. They will hold their annual gift wrapping fundraiser on Saturday, December 16 at noon to 3:00 p.m. here at the church. For a donation we will wrap all your gifts for you and decorate them with ribbons and bows, leaving you more time to continue with your shopping or entertain your holiday guests.

-Peter Bonnano, Youth Director

## Children's Choir To Perform

His name is Leon and he is the director of the Christmas Pageant. Yep, he went from the understudy of the inn keeper to director. He has a bit of an attitude, though. He keeps forgetting the REAL meaning of Christmas. Please come Sunday night, December 10 at 6:30 p.m., to see Leon and his cast of characters as they face a major challenge of live theatre while still trying to keep the "Main Thing" in mind. Cookie and punch reception will follow.

-Donna Bane

## Celebrating Cokesbury's 45th Birthday

### A Big Ten List of Firsts

1. The first time Cokesbury celebrated its birthday with new pastor Sandra Smith.
2. The first time we celebrated with a guest speaker. Elijah Stansel was our speaker
3. The first time we celebrated after three Sunday services.
4. The first time we celebrated having a Contemporary Service.
5. The first time we celebrated after having group pictures made from 1961 - 2006.
6. The first time we celebrated with more members having joined Cokesbury in the 21st century.
7. The first time we celebrated our birthday having a full time youth director on staff - Peter Bonanno.
8. The first time we celebrated with a do-it-yourself catered dinner with the assistance of the Piccadilly and John Short's turkey dressing.
9. The first time we celebrated a birthday in our new fellowship hall.
10. The first time we celebrated a birthday having not only used our new fellowship hall but also our sanctuary for the party because so many people came to Cokesbury's 45th celebration.

Thanks to all of you who helped in any way to make Cokesbury's 45th birthday a glorious celebration!

-Mary Short

## SeAM To Help With Food Drive

Southeast Area Ministries will participate in the Share your Holidays Food Drive sponsored by Channel 13 and HEB. SeAM will be collecting food on Wednesday, December 6 from noon until 6:00 p.m. At the HEB store located at Blackhawk and Beltway 8. Come by and donate your non-perishable food. Look for the SeAM van.

## Apportionments Update

Our apportionments represent our fair share of the ministries of the United Methodist Church both here and around the world. Each year, all United Methodist churches are asked to give proportionately according to their means.

Apportionments include a number of necessary administrative items, such as providing for our bishops and district superintendents, as well as paying for programs such as summer camp for youth, providing specialized ministries for young people attending colleges and universities in Texas, sending out trained missionaries and providing the infrastructure for mission programs, as well as helping pay pensions for some of our pastors

Recently, our Methodist Men and Methodist Women made generous gifts towards our apportionments. We have about \$13,500 more to pay on our apportionments in 2006.

Please consider making a special contribution during the Christmas season to make sure these essential ministries are funded. Thank you!

## New Option For Giving

Our church is embracing a giving option that may be more convenient for many of you - electronic giving. Beginning in January, this new giving option will offer church payments that are automatically withdrawn from your checking account.

To sign up for this new giving option and have your pledges paid on a regular basis, simply fill out an authorization form and return it to the church office, along with a voided check. You will choose the donation frequency (monthly or weekly) and the donation amount for each fund you want to support. The benefits to you are the satisfaction of giving to God first, the ease of fulfilling your stewardship commitments, and the chance to give even when you are not here. Besides, you never have to worry about forgetting your checkbook on Sunday mornings!

The benefits for our church include more predictable cash flow for better planning, less work for the office staff, and secure and easy cash maintenance. Of course, the traditional choices of giving remain. You may place your gift in the offering plate on Sunday mornings, drop it by the church office or mail it in. Whichever option you choose, thank you for giving!



## 73 Boxes Collected For Operation Christmas Child

The Stafford-Wyatt Circle of the UMW would like to thank everyone who participated in the Operation Christmas Child outreach project this year. Our congregation contributed 73 gift-filled shoeboxes (pictured at the left) which will bring joy and the Good News of God's love to boys and girls in the far corners of the world. We were also able to make a monetary donation to help with the cost of shipping. What a wonderful way to share the message of love and hope during this blessed season. Special thanks go to Laurel Johnson for handling the delivery of all the boxes to our area collection center.

-Kris Wallis

## Thank You

As so many of you know, it is never easy to say goodbye to a loved one and during a time like this, we are reminded how much our Church family means to us. Thank you so much for all the love and support you have shown. Your kindnesses are so appreciated and will always be remembered. We are truly blessed to be a part of the awesome Cokesbury family.

Perhaps you sent a lovely card,  
Shared words to say you care;  
Perhaps you sent beautiful flowers,  
If so, we saw them there.

Perhaps because of distance,  
You just thought of us that day;  
Perhaps you brought some food or pie,  
To help us in that way.  
Whatever you did to console the heart  
We thank you so much, whatever the part  
Love,  
-Gary, Kris, and Kaitlyn Wallis

## Come To UMW Christmas Party

The UMW would like to invite all the ladies of the church to our annual Christmas party, to be held on December 12 in the Fellowship Hall. We will be having finger foods. Bring something you like and come and join us. For those of you who had secret pals, also bring that gift.

We will also be bringing canned fruit and fruit juices for the Bridge. Please come and join us as we celebrate the joy of Christmas.

## Sign Up For Flowers

The flower calendar for 2007 is now available. Sign up for flowers in honor or memory of a loved one Cost is \$35.00.

## By The Numbers

November 26

Worship Attendance 8:30.....	88
Worship Attendance 9:45.....	37
Worship Attendance 11:00.....	123
Total Worship Attendance.....	248



## Welcome To Our Newest Member!

Claudia Gentry is Cokesbury's newest member. She joined at the 8:30 service on November 26. Claudia has been worshipping with us for some time. She is a SeAM volunteer. Please give her a big Cokesbury welcome the next time you see her!

We are also happy to welcome Kiana Singleton, who joined Cokesbury on November 19. She is not pictured, so we will hopefully get a picture soon for the Courier.

## Christmas Card Bins Here Soon

Save a stamp and send your Christmas cards to fellow Cokesburians! Boxes will be available to do just that by the next Sunday or two. John Hoover will be setting up the bins, probably on the credenza in the hallway by the library. Be sure and check the bins often as they fill up quickly.

## It's Your Time To Help!

The following people have agreed to help with the Helping Hands Ministry the next two Sundays:

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

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