

THE COKESBURY COURIER

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Cokesbury United Methodist Church

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Prayer Corner

Please keep the following persons in your prayers: Rick Williams' father (**Jack**), **Katy** Kuhlman, **Garth** Sloan during his Iraq deployment, **Jay** Standridge, Lou Ellington's daughters **Marian** and **Margaret**, **Dot** Margheim, Mary Wills' mother (**Bettie** Garrett), Winnie Smith's aunt (**Violet** Parker), Cliff Farley's aunt (**Bessie** Rutledge), Amanda Lohec's aunt (**Elsie** Schrend), Suzanne Warren's sister and brother-in-law (**Karen** and **Jerry**), **Jon** Akerman, **Dottie** Jones, and Barbara Pasciak's mother **Betty** Thompson

If you have prayer requests for the Prayer Chain, call the church office at 281-484-9243.

From The Pastor

How many times have you written "2006" on a check or a letter? It's hard to remember that we're in a new year.

But it's definitely a new year at Cokesbury. New ministry teams are meeting to form their goals and set their plans for 2007 and beyond. Believe me, if we did all the things we'd like to do, we won't survive until 2008! There's excitement in the air and a feeling of forward progress. I am so pleased that we are building on this church's strong foundation. Past work makes present work possible. We owe a lot to those who came before us.

There are two things I would like to say as we begin the new year. First, thank all of you for helping us to pay **100% of our apportionments for 2006**. These are the gifts beyond the local church. Of course, some apportionments are sent to take care of administrative costs necessary to make a denomination work. But our mission enterprises around the world are funded by apportionments. Thank you for making a difference. I'm so proud that we're doing our part. Second, I hope you will plan to be at church the next four Sundays. I will be preaching on Relationships God's Way. This coming Sunday, January 14, we'll be talking about "What Women Wish Men Knew about Women."

On the 21st, the men get their turn -- "What Men Wish Women Knew about Men." (I have to admit that the men in my family have given me a lot of help on that one!)

On January 28, we'll be talking about "What Kids Wish Their Parents Knew about Kids," and finally on the first Sunday of March the parents will get their turn -- "What Parents Wish Their Kids Knew about Parents."

Your surveys will be a big part of all these sermons. Thank you for filling them out. You have been very candid and direct, which I really appreciate.

As for the future, Lent is just around the corner, and I'm planning a series of sermons on Forgiveness.

In the meantime, remember who you are -- a baptized child of God, bought with a price and deeply loved. See you Sunday!

Love from your pastor,
-Sandra Smith



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Igniting Ministry Workshop Scheduled

Everybody knows that it's our job to invite people to come to worship God. But do you wonder how to invite folks to church without sounding like an idiot?

If so, we have something in mind for you!

On Saturday, January 20, from 8:30 to 12:30, we will gather for our third and final Igniting Ministry seminar. Led by Jan Floro, this is a training that will apply to every member of our church. It's all about inviting people -- and that includes knowing how to share our faith story.

Literally every member of our congregation is encouraged to take part. We want everyone to learn how to invite people to our church. After all, we have the greatest product in the world -- Jesus Christ, and we want to know how to get the word out about him. Please put January 20 on your calendar. Child care will be provided by reservation (call the church office at 281-484-9243.)

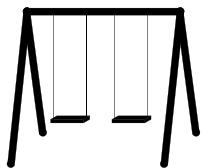
Youth Help Others At Crossroads

Crossroads is a homeless ministry sponsored by Park Place United Methodist Church and other churches and organizations in the area. MYF spent the first Tuesday of their Christmas vacation at the church. The youth helped with serving lunch and handing out clothes. It was a very rewarding activity.

Crossroads offers help to the homeless and other very needy people in the area. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, they offer showers and hot breakfast and lunch meals. In addition, on Tuesdays they also offer free haircuts, free used clothing, and washing and drying of their clothes. Volunteers are needed on both days to help with kitchen and laundry duties. They can also use large cans of food (#10 cans) and monetary donations. See Peter Bonanno or Laura Bradley for more information.

-Laura Bradley

New Playground Is Making Progress



We have great news. We have collected over \$10,000 for our new playground. We are two thirds of the way there. It's hard to believe that in such a short time we have come so far. The committee would like to thank everyone for all their assistance and suggestions. We have had such great support from our "wonderfully talented" congregation from making baskets and quilts, breakfast, lunch and dinner, the youth support, the bazaar, plus all our members who have made financial contributions.

There are just too many people to mention that have made our campaign a success so far. We are so excited and can't wait to see the faces of our children when we complete their new playground. All things are possible with God and a little assistance from his saints and angels.

-Jackie Glass



Welcome!

Pictured above are Patti and Dennis Akkola, who joined Cokesbury back on October 8. Please give them a big Cokesbury welcome when you see them next.

Spring Cleaning Comes Early

Our storage space over the Fellowship Hall and the Education Wing has rapidly accumulated a large amount of material. If you have items stored in these areas, please be sure they are labeled as to ownership.

In February, the Trustees will be having a work day to consolidate items and throw away unneeded or unlabeled items.

-The Trustees

Sign Up For 2007 Flowers

The flower calendar for 2007 is now available. Sign up for flowers in honor or memory of a loved one. The cost is \$35.

The following dates are still available for flowers: February 25, April 1, May 6 and 13, June 17 and 24, July 1 and 8, September 23 and 30, and October 7 and 14.

Cokesbury's Statement of Purpose

Learning to serve God and humankind in Jesus' name

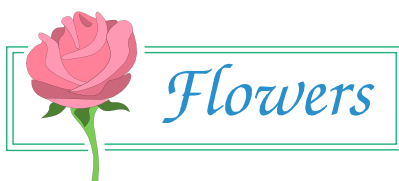
By The Numbers

January 7

Worship Attendance 8:30.....	88
Worship Attendance 9:45.....	52
Worship Attendance 11:00.....	169

Total Worship Attendance.....309

Sunday School Attendance.....178



January 21- The flowers this week are given in memory of Charles R. Murphy and J.K. Wallis, by Gary, Kris and Kaitlyn Wallis.

Trustees Elect 2007 Officers

At their January meeting, the Trustees elected the following officers: Carol Yeaney (Chair), Rob Bradley (Vice-Chair) and Danna Whorton (Secretary). Other current Trustees are Kris Wallis, Kathy Lemaster, Chuck Dyrud, Steve Provence, Ray Aquilar and Bob Crouch.

Help Us Display Our Flag Properly

Cokesbury needs volunteers to take care of our American flag. The main activities are making sure the flag is in good condition and that it is lit during darkness hours. If the flag is damaged, it needs to be lowered for repair or replacement. Volunteers at the church take care of minor repairs. The lighting is controlled by a timer. Occasionally, the flag is put at half staff. If you are interested, contact Carol Yeaney, Chair of Trustees, or Rob Bradley.



Treasurer's Report

Giving for December December 24

Budgeted.....\$9,566
Bond Fund.....\$135
Youth Ministry.....\$10
Designated Giving.....\$1,449
Total Giving for 12-24.....\$11,160

Giving for December 31

Budgeted.....\$12,311
Bond Fund.....\$1,145
Youth Minister Giving.....\$10
Designated Giving.....\$9,325
Interest Income.....\$125
Total Giving for 12-31.....\$22,916

Bank Balances As Of January 6

Operating Balance.....\$1467.51
Bond Fund.....\$1,424.52
Designated Fund.....\$16,452.60
T-Mobile Account.....\$31,283.52
Total.....\$50,628.15
100% of 2006 Apportionments paid!

Sandy Hinson, Treasurer

Save Time!

E-Mail Your Article To The Paper
newsletter@cumchouston.org

MYF News

Happy New Year! I hope y'all are ready for an even better year of MYF events and activities. On Sunday, January 7th, we had one of our biggest gatherings with 28 youth in attendance! God is doing amazing things here at Cokesbury and I want to thank everyone who has helped out with their time, money, support and prayers.

Please mark these upcoming events:

January 14 - Paintball! Meet at the church at 2:30 p.m. Pick your kids up at 5:30 p.m. At Paintball Zone on Dixie Farm Rd.. Cost is \$25.

January 20 - Service Project at Christ Cathedral Church in downtown Houston. (Homeless Outreach). Times TBA.

January 26 & 27 - Acquire the Fire event at Grace Community Church. Cost \$50.

Please note the following deposit deadlines for upcoming summer activities:

Jan. 17th - Camp Redcloud - \$83

Jan. 28th - UMArmy - \$75

Jan. 19th - Acquire the Fire - \$50

-Peter Bonanno, Youth Director

Visitors Or Guests?

Words are important. Sometimes we use words not fully understanding what they mean. Look at the meanings of the words below as defined by Webster's Dictionary:

Visitor- One who presents oneself or comes over momentarily.

Guest- A person who is entertained in one's house. A person to whom hospitality is extended.

A visitor is someone who comes over for a moment. A guest is someone who is invited.

Think of "visitors" who have unexpectedly dropped in on you at home. Dirty dishes might be in the sink. You may have on your "comfy" clothes that you wouldn't normally wear out in public. You are taken by surprise and unprepared. On the other hand, a guest is someone you've invited. You have made plans for them. The house is spotless. You set out the best dishes. Everyone is clean and dressed nicely. Perhaps you will even have a gift for your guest. You would do all possible to make your guest feel comfortable and at home.

It is important to consider the words we use to describe those who come to our church for the first time. We should be thinking of them as Guests rather than Visitors. We should make plans so that we are ready for them. The Hospitality Committee is doing just that. You may have noticed that the Narthex is a little less cluttered these days. There is some new furniture there too. This is part of getting the "house" ready for our guests. We also have special gifts and information about our church to offer guests in order to show them how much we appreciate them.

You can be a part of extending hospitality to our guests. It may be as simple as introducing yourself and inviting a guest to your Sunday School class. It wouldn't hurt to introduce them to a few of your friends, too. Perhaps you could show someone where to find the nursery or the restroom. Be sure to take them to the Guest Center in the Narthex so that they can receive their gift. These small gestures go a long way into making sure people feel like invited guests rather than drop-in visitors.

-Craig Elings- Co-chair Hospitality Committee

Add "Tomato Time" To Your List For SeAM

Southeast Area Ministries' supply of non-perishable tomato products is usually fully depleted lately. They need canned tomato sauce and cans of whole or diced tomatoes to restock their shelves. SeAM is providing more days of food for its clients than they provided in the past, and Cokesbury's families have an opportunity to participate in that effort.

Becomers Class members encourage you to write "Tomato Time for SeAM" on your grocery list each week. As you purchase these items on a regular basis and deposit them in the large soup bin in our kitchen, they are delivered to SeAM to help families who are less fortunate than we.

Thanksgiving and Christmas recently reminded us to give freely. Maintaining this spirit of giving throughout the year, we are blessed to "remember who we are" as children of God.

-Cathy Pleasants

Thank You

I want to thank my Cokesbury family for your generous Christmas gift. I appreciate your love and thoughtfulness more than I could ever tell you. I also want to tell you how much I appreciate the privilege and opportunity you give me to serve God here at Cokesbury. This is a wonderful church and a real blessing to me and I love and appreciate each of you. Thank you again for your love and support and for allowing me to serve as your education director.

-Linda Garies

Across the Surface-Rainbows from Anne

Diana looked up from her magazine from her seat on the patio to smile at her small son who was playing in his plastic wading pool in the back yard. After she had filled the pool with the hose, Tony started by sitting in the water playing with toy boats, and then he slid down the attached slide. However, now he was walking back and forth in the water from one side of the pool to the other, his arms spread out.

Then when she looked up again, she saw that he had crossed the lawn to his sandbox, obtained a pail, and had brought it back to the pool. Using the small bucket, he began to scoop the water out of the pool and poured it in the grass. Diana called him over to her.

"If you dump the water like that, you'll empty the pool," she told him. "Why are you doing that?"

"In Sunday school, the teacher was talking about how Jesus walked on the water."

"Yes, he did. But what's that got to do with your emptying your pool?"

"Well, I thought I'd try to walk like that." Tony shuffled from one foot to the other. "But this water doesn't work."

Tony was certainly trying to do things his own way instead of God's and that's something we all attempt at one time or another. Yet just like when Tony tried it, it never works. Of course, while we're not likely to try walking on water, we go our own way when we try to incorporate our own procedures into a God-assigned task. On the other hand, we might completely ignore what God wants us to do and instead try to complete the task with our plans in our own energy.

So what does that accomplish? Nothing of course because it doesn't serve God and can only hamper his purpose and ours. So the remedy? It's easy - return to God's purposes and plans. When we do, while we may not walk on water, we certainly won't be all wet!

-Anne Adams

Red Hats Meet For Christmas Party

The Red Hats met at the church for our annual Christmas party on Friday, December 15.

Carroll Kuhlman played Santa Claus along with his awesome violin player, Charlie Timme. They literally stole the show. Chelsea Chisholm was our guest singer. Sahara, her daughter who is five years old, only wanted a puppy for Christmas when given the microphone to tell Santa what she wanted.

Thanks to everyone who helped Katy and me to make this a great success. Especially Carroll, Charlie, Don, Carolyn Breathed, Linda Williams, and Rob Bradley for use of the sound system.

-Barbara Strong and Katy Kuhlman

Adult Class News

Becomers (Room 252)

We are continuing our study of the book, "Who is God in Three Persons?" Adults of all ages are welcome with us for Bible study and discussion.

New Disciples (New Location-Room 208)

Please join us for Bible based Sunday School class.

New Beginnings (Room 156)

We have begun a new lesson series on Challenging Traditional Christian Beliefs, led by Darrel Raines.

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

We have started a study of current events and possible Biblical interpretations. Join us at 11 a. m.

Wesley Class (Conference Room)

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

Adult Bible Study (Room 210)

We have started a study of the book of Leviticus based on the book by John Hartly, other commentaries and the Bible. We will be covering chapters on ritual cleanliness.

Good News Class (Room 153)

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

Affinity Class (Room 209)

We are discussing the book "Meet The Methodists," by Charles Allen.