

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' parents (**Jack and Mary**), **Katy** Kuhlman, **Gloria** Markovich, Cliff Farley's father (**Bob** Farley). **Phyllis** Beatty, **Dot** Margheim, **Tom** Becker, **Garth** Sloan during his Iraq deployment, the family of Andy McBride, **Silver** Richardson (grandson of Pat Richardson and is a Marine stationed in Afghanistan), the family of Ruth Latham who passed away last week (a representative from the Partners in Mission office).

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

From The Pastor

I'm usually pretty good with plants. I can usually find the right balance of watering and not watering, fertilizing and not fertilizing that keeps things green and growing.

But right now, my plants are not happy.

Ever since I moved them, the plants in my office have simply failed to thrive. One African violet has shed a number of leaves and the other one, a violet I've had for 10 years or more, simply laid down and died. Another plant took on such an unhealthy look that I finally threw it away.

It was depressing.

So I went to the hardware store and bought a light bulb designed especially for plants. It's supposed to give green things just what they need to flourish, grow and bloom. I'm still waiting to see if it works. No miraculous recoveries yet, but nothing has curled up and died either! In the same way, our souls need the light of Christ. We cannot flourish, grow strong, blossom without it.

Why do we persist in thinking that we can provide for ourselves the most important things we need, when we know that only our Lord can provide for us?

This week, take some time to bask in the "Son light." Spend time with him. Read his words. Think about what they mean for you. Look for ways to praise him with your words and with your actions. Find ways to serve him. Take time every day to reflect deeply on his unfailing love for you.

Turn to the light of Christ like a plant turns towards the Source of all that it needs. That's my hope and prayer for you.

P.S. I know the entire staff joins me in thanking you, the people we serve, for the wonderful Christmas gifts you gave us. We feel very special, and deeply grateful!

Love from your pastor,



-Sandra Smith

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UMW Announces Valentine's Dinner

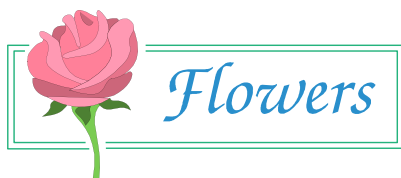
Ladies, please mark your calendars for February 13. That is the date for the United Methodist Women's annual Valentine's Dinner. This year it is being held at the Texas Land and Cattle Restaurant at 11900 Dickinson Road close to the Home Depot. More information will be upcoming in the Courier and bulletins.

Friendship Dinner Coming Up Next Month

Cokesbury's United Methodist Men are announcing their annual Friendship Dinner, to be held on Saturday, February 17, at 6:30 p.m. All members and friends of Cokesbury are invited to come and bring a friend if you wish for this wonderful feast.

The tickets are \$10 each for the event. The United Methodist Men are selling tickets before and after the worship services.

The entertainment this year will be the "Over the Hill Gang," and the dinner will include barbeque from the Brown Sugar Barbecue Restaurant. Servers for the evening event will be our very own members of the Methodist Youth Fellowship.



January 28- The flowers this week are given in honor of Jim Smith on his 85th birthday, by Peggy, Susan, Austin, and Shah.

February 4 - The flowers this week are given in honor of Dot Margheim's birthday by Sherry and Jeb Brooks.

Council / Finance Groups To Meet

Cokesbury's Church Council has a new meeting date and time. Chairperson Gary Warner has announced that the Council will hold its first meeting of the new year next Tuesday, January 30, at 7:30 p.m. The Finance Committee will be meeting that same night one hour earlier, at 6:30 p.m. All members are urged to attend these important meetings.

Children's Choirs Begin Rehearsals for Spring Production

The Cokesbury Kids will soon begin rehearsals and auditions for their spring production of "POWER". A charged up, energy filled musical that promises to be fun and will deliver a message of hope to the hopeless.

This would be a great time to get your child involved with Cokesbury's Children's Choirs. We meet every Wednesday night at 6:30 in the fellowship hall. The Cokesbury Kids consist of 1st thru 5th graders. If you have any questions, please call Donna Bane at 281-326-0881

-Donna Bane

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.

Confirmation Classes Begin Soon

If you are at least in the 6th grade and have never confirmed your faith in God, this is your time! Confirmation classes will begin soon, and you will want to take part. This will be your time to claim your faith for yourself. Please contact the church office, or Pastor Sandy at 281-484-9243 as soon as possible. Classes will begin in early February. Confirmation classes are important, fascinating and fun. Come and see for yourself!

In Sympathy

Cokesbury extends condolences to the family of Andy McBride who passed away last week. Services were held here at the church on Friday, January 19.

Andy was an active member of Cokesbury and had served on the Board of Trustees. He was a master carpenter and woodworker, having used his woodworking skills on various tasks here at Cokesbury, including building our sound booth in the sanctuary and installing new hand railings for the stairs in the building. Our sympathy goes out to his children, grandchildren, sisters, and the entire family.

Save Time!

E-Mail Your Article To The Paper
newsletter@cumchouston.org
brad9@flash.net
klscats@msn.com

Welcome Amy!

We are happy to announce that Amy Becker Smith has agreed to be our new director of the Young Singing Angels. We are very thankful to Jennifer Pogue for being their leader for the past 4 months.

The Young Singing Angels consist of Pre-K and Kindergarten children and meet on Wednesdays at 6:30 in room 157. (the room behind the Fellowship Hall). Our Children's Choir programs are open to all children.

Please let Amy know how much we appreciate her accepting this position.

-Donna Bane

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 13, June 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

MYF Upcoming Events

On Sunday January 14th MYF had its first ever paintball event where we battled Friendswood UMC's MYF! We had an awesome time shooting our brothers and sisters in Christ! We've been having excellent turn-outs for MYF lately, and I must say the kids are doing a fantastic job of inviting their friends and family. Keep up the great work y'all! And keep on praying that God will continue to do awesome things here at Cokesbury and beyond!

Here's what's coming up:

Feb 4 - Super Bowl Party at the parsonage (11619 Sagecanyon) at 4:30pm - 9:00pm

Feb 16 - Game Nite 6pm - 11pm

Feb 17 - Friendship Dinner 6pm - 8pm

Feb 18 - Youth Sunday

Feb 20 - Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper 4:30pm - 8pm

April 20-22 - Junior High Breakthru Retreat weekend

April 27-29 - Senior High Breakthru Retreat weekend

May 4-6 - Beach Retreat weekend

June 3-9 - UArmy

June 15-24 - Camp Redcloud in Colorado for Senior High

June 25-29 - Lakeview camp for Junior High

DON'T FORGET: UArmy money is due Sunday January 28th (\$75)

-Peter Bonanno

Video Help Wanted

Help is needed -- are you the one called to respond?

We need someone who can film some video and edit it for use on a special Sunday morning in May. If you have those skills, please contact Pastor Sandy at 281-484-9243. Thanks!

Lost and Found

The following items are still waiting to be claimed at the church: women's flannel windbreaker, hooded sweatshirt, green bracelet, eyeglasses, sunglasses, assorted jackets, blue key chain and a clear bag with office items. See the church secretary Diana or call 281-484-9243.

Rainbows Along the Way

Keeping Posted

Mildred shifted her packages in her arms, moved a step forward in the line at the Post Office, and craned her neck to look toward the counter. Good. She saw that she would be next and she didn't even want to think about how many people were behind her.

Waiting at the Post Office to mail packages to distant family had become an annual tradition at Christmas time and was part of a long process. It started when she selected and purchased the gifts, then wrapped them for mailing, and now she was standing in this stupid line. As she waited, Mildred began to think about what she would encounter once she got to the counter and met with Post Office regulations and policies. She knew one package needed to be insured and sent certified, another might be overweight and needed extra postage, and the others she hoped would go at regular rates. The post office people and policies were always so frustrating.

There were further worries. Were the packages addressed correctly? Wrapped right? Ah -- good -- the person in front of her had moved on, and before she knew it, she was up at the counter.

To her surprise, it went easier than she'd thought, and she had done it right. With a sense of relief, Mildred turned away from the counter, when the clerk had a question.

"Did you need stamps today?"

"Oh!" Mildred stopped short. "Oh, yes. I guess I do. For Christmas cards."

"Okay, what denomination?" The clerk opened her drawer and looked up expectantly.

As her frustration at the whole Post Office experience returned, Mildred sighed audibly. "Has it finally come to this? Well, let's see," She closed her eyes and concentrated for a second. "I guess I'll need 4 Catholic, 15 Baptist, 20 Presbyterian, and a Methodist."

That's an understandable mistake, but while Mildred probably wasn't actually concerned about the subject -- it does raise an interesting question. What about denominations? Why do churches have to be so divided -- particularly at Christmas time when we celebrate the birth of the Church's Founder? Of course, the good news is that the Church as founded by Christ is not divided and it is people who have created the denominational divisions. The important thing to remember is that though churches may differ in some respects, they all have the same characteristic that links them all. Christmas is when their Savior was born and that is what unifies us all as we celebrate his birth.

-Anne Adams

It's Your Time to Help with Helping Hands

The following people have signed up to help with Helping Hands for the next two weeks:

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

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

Sunday Announcements Have Changed

It seems that announcements about our church activities are taking up more and more of our worship time. Not long ago, we had 15 minutes worth of announcements on a Sunday morning! In order to have more time to focus on worshiping and praising God, the Worship Committee has asked that, beginning January 21, written announcements be handed to the worship assistant before the service begins. The worship assistant will make all announcements.

Also, please limit your announcements to things that are about to happen within the next two weeks. Thanks for your cooperation as we seek to make our worship time more worshipful!

CDO is collecting "Beautiful Junk"

Our Children's Day Out program could use your help in collecting the following items to be used in their Beautiful Junk Project:

Paper, boxes, spools, corks, lids, yarn, fabric scraps, buttons, beads, lace fringe, ribbon, felt, feathers, acorns, seeds, stones, menus, aprons, chef hats, plastic fruit and vegetables, berries, baskets, margarine tubs, posters, travel scenes and reproductions.

The items will be used to teach the children such concepts as creativity, construction, change, balance and counting. Please drop your items off at the CDO office between 9:00 a. m. and 1:00 p. m. Monday through Thursday.

-Marcie Devine, CDO Director

Thanks from Lotus

I want to thank my Cokesbury friends for the gift you gave me at Christmas. Your appreciation is certainly welcome. The choir and I especially appreciate that you come out and support us in our special performances at this season of the year when everyone is so busy.

Yours in Christ,
- Lotus Ricketts

By The Numbers

January 21

Worship Attendance 8:30.....90

Worship Attendance 9:45.....38

Worship Attendance 11:00.....115

Total Worship Attendance.....243

Sunday School Attendance.....178



Treasurer's Report

Giving for January 7

Budgeted.....\$12,097

Bond Fund.....\$940

CDO Income.....\$6,455

Designated Giving.....\$26

Total Giving for 1/7.....\$19,518

Giving for January 14

Budgeted.....\$7,317

Bond Fund.....\$434

CDO Income.....\$1,150

Youth Minister Giving.....\$75

Designated Giving.....\$162

Total Giving for 1/14.....\$9,138

Bank Balances As Of January 20

Operating Balance.....\$187

Bond Fund.....\$1,498

Designated Savings.....\$44,372

Total.....\$46,057

All bill paid through January 22.

Sandy Hinson, Treasurer

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)

Continuing this Sunday and running for four to six weeks; "Discerning What God Is Doing:-A Study Of Acts". We will look at a couple stories from Acts, specifically 10:1-11:18 and 15:1-5, and search out the answers to a few questions. In what ways does God work in human beings? In what specific ways does God work in our world today? How can we recognize and partner in God's work?

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.