

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: **Katy** Kuhlman, **Gloria** Markovich, **Phyllis** Beatty and family on the death of her cousin Chub, **Rob** Bradley and family on the death of his nephew, **Dot** Margheim, **Tom** Becker, **Garth** Sloan during his Iraq deployment, **Silver** Richardson (grandson of Pat Richardson and is a Marine stationed in Afghanistan), **Sue** Scott, Dollie Philpott's aunt, **Audrey** Karraker, **Richard** Philpott, **Rod** and **Linda** Hite, and **Marcie** Devine.

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

From The Pastor

I want to pass along to you what I told our Church Council at their first meeting of the year last week.

Almost every single day, I go to Starbucks. I order a "grande" iced black tea, unsweetened, with extra ice. For this, I pay \$1.84. In addition, I usually leave a tip. Now, I could make iced tea right here at the church any time I want. I even have the teabags they use at Starbucks. I could boil some water, add plenty of ice and have enough iced tea for days for a fraction of the cost. But instead, I go to Starbucks almost every single day.

Why? Because when I walk up to the counter, the Starbucks staff acts like I'm the person they've been waiting all day to serve. They smile at me warmly, and some of them call me "sweetheart." They offer me samples of exotic new drinks they're serving. If I miss a day, they notice, and they ask me if everything is okay.

Sometimes they offer me a free upgrade to a "venti" -- the largest size. In everything they do, they make me feel special. And because they wear nametags, I'm even gradually learning their names.

Now, what would it take for folks to get that "Starbucks feeling" here at Cokesbury? We have a much greater product than coffee or tea -- we're offering new life in Jesus Christ! How could we possibly be less eager to welcome people to our place than the employees at Starbucks are to welcome their customers? We shouldn't be taking second place to anybody in the hospitality department!

When people walk in the door to our church on Sunday morning, members or guests, do we make them feel like they've made our day just by showing up? Do we gradually learn their names, and help them gradually learn ours? Do we make them feel as special as they really are? Are we offering them true hospitality in the name of the Lord?

Last week, there was a new employee at my Starbucks. He's a little overwhelmed right now, trying to learn the ropes at his new job. He's too busy to be friendly. He hasn't smiled at me yet. In other words, I'm just another customer to him.

You know, if this young man had been my first experience at Starbucks, I might never have come back.

So I want to challenge you, my friends, to make hospitality your lifestyle. Keep practicing the welcoming of people until it comes naturally to you. Help us build a reputation as the friendliest church anywhere!

I hope I see you Sunday. I will make it a point to welcome you!

Love from your pastor,
-Sandra Smith



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UMW Announces Valentine's Dinner

Ladies, please mark your calendars for February 13 at 7:00 p.m. 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. If you have a UMW secret pal, bring a \$10 gift to the dinner and reveal your name on the gift. Also, this Sunday, February 11, is the deadline for making you reservation. You may do so by calling Jean Bonds at 281-485-1542.

Friendship Dinner Tickets On Sale

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. Tickets will be sold through this Sunday, February 11.

The entertainment this year will be the "Over the Hill Gang," and the meal will be barbeque with all the trimmings. Servers for the evening event will be our very own members of the Methodist Youth Fellowship.

Signs of the Times

You may have noticed that we are sporting brand-new Guest Parking and Handicapped Parking signs. We've set aside premium parking spots to those we want to feel especially welcome. We want to let them know as soon as they drive up that we appreciate them. Clearly marked handicapped parking also shows our friends with special needs that we care about them. We would like to extend a very special thanks to the United Methodist Men for installing the new signs.

These signs are another part of our quest to become a more welcoming church. Many first-time guests are confused and don't know where to park, or where to go once they are inside. By having helpful signage, we remove some of this anxiety and confusion. Signs are most effective when complemented by friendly people that recognize guests or folks with special needs and take the extra step to extend a heartfelt welcome. If you would like to become more involved with helping make Cokesbury a more welcoming church, consider becoming a greeter or joining our guest follow-up team. It is a ministry you will enjoy!

-Craig Elings Co-Chair Hospitality Committee

Come to Pancake Supper Feb 20th

Everyone is invited to attend the annual pancake supper to be held on Tuesday, February 20 at 5:00 p.m. It is being sponsored by the United Methodist Men. This is the last day before Lent begins and is called Shrove Tuesday or Fat Tuesday. During Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday, we are asked to fast and pray. These are two traditional ways to draw closer to God and Christ. Please join us for food and fellowship. We will serve pancakes, waffles, bacon, sausage, and all the trimmings.



February 11- The flowers this week are given in honor of Savannah Rose Lohec's birthday, from Daddy, Mommy, and Gran.

February 18- The flowers this week are given in honor of Linda and Bill's anniversary and Jason and Lori and Elizabeth Botkin's birthday, from Linda and Bill Botkin.

Ash Wednesday Service is February 21

Ash Wednesday begins the 40 days of Lent (not counting Sundays), which is the time of spiritual preparation for the great victory of Easter. It is the tradition of the Church for Christians to fast, pray, perform extra acts of service, and "give something up" for Lent. All these are ways to prepare our hearts for the Day of Resurrection.

This year, Ash Wednesday is February 21. That day, we will have a special service at 7:00 p.m. You may choose to receive the gift of ashes, or abstain from it. In either case, you are welcome to begin the Lenten experience with your church family. And don't miss the United Methodist Men's annual Pancake Supper the night before!

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 and will give you an opportunity to learn more about the church before you become a member. 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!

By The Numbers

February 4

Worship Attendance 8:30.....	102
Worship Attendance 9:45.....	33
Worship Attendance 11:00.....	140
Total Worship Attendance.....	275
Sunday School Attendance.....	150

Save Time!

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

MYF Upcoming Events

On Super Bowl Sunday we had an awesome turn-out at the parsonage for our annual Super Bowl Party! 25 youth showed up for the get-together, including some new faces! Thank you to all who showed up, helped out, and gave food and beverages!

Here's what's coming up:

- Feb 10 - Take Pictures of God - 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. (meet at church at 9:45 a.m.)
- Feb 16 - Game Nite 6 p.m. - 11 p.m.
- Feb 17- Nursing Home Visit 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. (meet at church at 9:15 a.m.)
- Feb 17 - Friendship Dinner 6 pm - 8 p.m.
- Feb 18 - Youth Sunday
- Feb 20 - Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper 4:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.
- Feb 24 - Church Clean-up 10 a.m. - ?
- Feb 25 - MYF Parent Planning Meeting 5:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.
- March 9 - 10 - Brazos Bend Camping Trip (details to come)
- 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 - UMArmy
- June 15-24 - Camp Redcloud in Colorado for Senior High
- June 25-29 - Lakeview camp for Junior High
- July 9 -13 - JUMMP

-Peter Bonanno

Mail-Out Coming Soon To Our Neighbors

This week, the Contemporary Worship service launched a mass mail awareness campaign to 5000 homes in the South Belt area. This mailing is targeted to people that are skeptical about church. According to a recent survey commissioned by the United Methodist Church, the most important attribute in choosing a church is "You will be Accepted as You, no matter where you come from, what you wear or what you look like." Many people feel that coming to church requires them to sit in a hard pew and wear formal, uncomfortable clothing. They also feel that church people are judgmental and narrow-minded. That's certainly not the case at Cokesbury. This mailing lets them know that we aren't scary and we will accept them for who they are. It also highlights our contemporary service which is a great worship experience for people who might be skeptical or nervous about church.

In effect, we are inviting 5000 people to be our guests on Sunday morning. It will be a great opportunity to see the impact of our Igniting Ministries initiative to make our church more welcoming. So, keep your eye on your mailbox and keep your eye out for many new guests on Sunday morning. The postcard may be the reason they come the first time. A welcoming congregation will bring them back again!

-Craig Elings Co-Chair Hospitality Committee

Have a "We Attitude" for Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day is the time to say "I Love You" with heart decorated cards, beautiful flowers, yummy candy and even expensive gifts. But the very best way to say "I Love You" at any time is with a "We Attitude". This attitude is why we love the other person in the first place, because the togetherness with that other person brings common sharing of space, activities, time, goals and experiences.

It is not that one of us is totally responsible for that giving, comfort, or loving feeling, nor that the other person just gets all that comfort and love. We both do (or all of us do) when the "we attitude" is expressed. That is what love is all about--knowing that the other person or persons have equal value in all that is experienced.

As a member of our own family, as a member of our Cokesbury family, and most importantly as a member of God's family let us remember the "we attitude" in actions, words and deeds.

-Mary Short, Family Coordinator

Owen-Gemoets Circle Meets

The Sara Owen-Gemoets Circle of the United Methodist Women met at Linda Heinrich's home on Tuesday, January 23 at 10:00 a.m. There were 10 members present.

Leda Williams gave a very interesting program about the Stations of the Cross and their significance in the Crucifixion of Jesus.

The project for this year will be Dr. Joe Pouzar's trip to Mexico. This trip is to help the people there with both medical and religious supplies. A delicious lunch and fellowship were enjoyed by all.

-Billie Kestler

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:

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

Third Sunday: Anna Aguilar, Lynda and Carl Detwiler, Betty Grigsby, Karla Parker, Carol Trotter and Edna Faye Campbell, Martha Van Krigenbergh, Danna Whorton and Fran Wright.

Additional Air Conditioning to be Installed

Parts of our new building which have not been cooling correctly should be considerably cooler when the hot weather rolls around soon. A committee headed up by member James Warner, along with trustees Rob Bradley and Don Smith. have been meeting with SLI Contractors, the architects, and others.

It was determined that our cooling needs were not being met by the original installation. SLI and Jones Engineering agreed to upgrade the system by adding 7½ tons of additional cooling at no cost to the church. Carrier will provide the units, free of charge.

Installation was started this week, with the outside units being placed outside the door by the elevator. It should be finished by March.

Many thanks to the sub-committee of the trustees who worked on this, and especially to James Warner who lent his expertise to make sure we got what was needed.

Breneman Circle Meets

Twelve enthusiastic ladies braved the cold rain Tuesday morning to attend the first meeting of the year of the Breneman Circle at Mary Short's home.

We were well rewarded when Donna Northrup, our chairperson, presented the program. She spoke of Jesus' life. She got her program from a book authored by Joseph F. Girzone titled *A Portrait of Jesus*. Mary Hackward gave the devotional. After a tasty luncheon, we left much inspired by the morning.

-Betty Sutton



Thanks, Cokesbury Youth

I want to thank Peter Bonanno and the youth and the Sawyer family and the other members for helping me move on January 28th. I greatly appreciate the help which was given, and I know it is the only day that some people have off to relax and enjoy their time with their family. But they took out that time to help me when I needed it the most with no hesitation. Thanks to the great Cokesbury family and Youth Department. Sincerely,

-Kerrie Strawhun



Treasurer's Report

Giving for January 21

Operating.....	\$6,582
CDO Income.....	\$440
Designated Giving.....	\$257
Total Giving for 1/7.....	\$7,279

Giving for January 28

Operating.....	\$5,824
CDO Income.....	\$710
Designated Giving.....	\$325
Total Giving for 1/14.....	\$6,859

Bank Balances As Of February 3

Operating Balance.....	\$1,605
Bond Fund.....	\$1,499
Designated Savings.....	\$43,614
Total.....	\$46,718

Cash Flow Report for January 2007

Beginning Balance Jan 1.....	\$50,628
Revenue for Jan 2007.....	\$42,834
Total Expenses for Jan 2007.....	\$41,005
Debt Ret. Principle Paymt.....	\$ 5,739
Ending Balance for Jan 2007.....	\$46,718

-Sandy Hinson, Treasurer

Thank You

Dear Pastor and Church Family,

We are so blessed to have all of you in our lives. Your prayers, sympathy, love and other acts of kindness will never be forgotten. Many thanks to each and every one for all you did on the death of my mother, Bettie Garrett.

-Mary Garrett Wills & Family

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 19:1-37 and 20:1-27.

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 studying the Book of I Corinthians from the Bible. The leader this week is Bill Sutton. We are also working on putting together sewing kits for a mission project.