

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: **Garth** Sloan, returning to Iraq this week; **Molly** Evans who escaped a dangerous fire at her apartment complex; prayers of joy for **Ellen** and **John** Sekumade's new baby boy, David James; **Gloria** Markovich, Phyllis Beaty's grandmother, **Katy** Kuhlman, **Herb** Parker, Rick Williams' Dad, **Sue** Scott and Margie Remely's friend **Mike**.

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

From The Pastor

Here we are, at the beginning of a new season. The pancakes have all been eaten, Mardi Gras is officially over, and Lent has begun.

Lent is simply an old word meaning "spring," but it is one of the oldest seasons of the church. Easter was, of course, the first great celebration, and it wasn't long before Christians decided that it would make a more glorious Easter if they took part in a period of sacrifice and penitence, in remembrance of Christ's sacrifice for us. That's the origin of "giving something up" for Lent.

Lent lasts for 40 days (not counting Sundays). This is not a random number! Many great things in the Bible -- glorious events -- happened at the end of 40 days. When Noah built the ark, it rained for 40 days and 40 nights; then God renewed the whole earth. Jesus fasted and prayed for 40 days before he began his public ministry. No wonder Christians specified 40 days for Lent!

Many early Christians gave up something during Lent that they were accustomed to eating the rest of the year, especially rich foods that contained a lot of sugar and fat. European Christians gave us the custom of "Mardi Gras," which is French for "Fat Tuesday." Sometimes Mardi Gras is called "Shrove Tuesday," using a very old word. To be "shriven" is to be purged of something. On Shrove Tuesday, people shrove their houses of luxurious things. Mardi Gras became a day on which rich foods are consumed before Lent begins. Traditionally, sweet pancakes were served, thus using up any sugar, butter, or cream left in the house.

I grew up in a church that did not observe the season of Lent, so it took me a while to figure it out. Now, Lent is one of the best times of the year for me. It's a time for me to reflect on my sins, and to give them up to God.

It has also become a time in which I "give something up." I'm always amazed at how difficult it is to make even the smallest sacrifice. I mean, I have a hard time giving up Diet Coke! How infinitely harder was Christ's sacrifice for me.

During this season, I will be preaching a series of sermons called "The Way of Forgiveness." Boy, is it hard to forgive! And yet, that is exactly what Jesus requires of us. Let's see if we can explore this topic and allow ourselves to grow spiritually.

Easter is coming! Thank God for Lent!



Love from your pastor,
Sandra Smith

Selected Contents

MYF Upcoming Events.....	8
Friendship Banquet Thanks.....	8
Wyatt/Stafford Circle News.....	8
Save A Heart With An AED.....	8
We Welcome a New Editor.....	8

Toddler Tunes Starts at Cokesbury

Starting March 2nd, bring your toddler to Toddler Tunes. This is a music and movement class developed for the toddler and parent or caregiver. Toddler Tunes is for children 5 and under, and is conducted in a fun, relaxed atmosphere. Class consists of finger plays, instruments, marching games, and lap sit songs and games, all to music favorites for all ages! Session one lasts 45 minutes, starting at 10:00 a.m. on March 2nd and will end on April 13th. Please contact Amy Smith, class instructor, for any additional information at Abeck18@aol.com, or 281-481-2555.

-Amy Smith

Communion During Lent

During the season of Lent, Holy Communion will be celebrated each week at the 8:30 a.m. Sunday services. Bread and cup will be offered by intinction, or dipping the bread into the cup of juice. Special prayer stations will be set up for worshipers at all services to use as they should choose. At the 9:45 and 11:00 a.m. services, Holy Communion will be celebrated on the first Sunday of each month as is our custom.

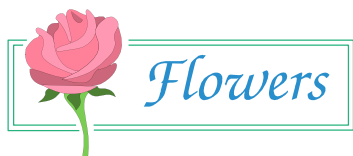
Transforming Churches Project Begins

Cokesbury is one of only 25 churches in the South District to be invited to join the Transforming Churches Project. Transforming Churches is a three year program of healthy growth for congregations.

Having completed the Igniting Ministry program, we are now advancing into this new path. As we all know, Jesus' last words to us were "Go into all the world and make disciples. . ." Transforming Churches is designed to help us learn to do that. Why are we doing this? Because people need Jesus! More about Transforming Churches to come.

Cokesbury's Statement of Purpose

Learning to serve God and humankind in Jesus' name



February 25- The flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in honor of Gary J. Warner's birthday from Mom and Dad and Splash.

March 4- The flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in honor of Larry and Cathy Pleasants 19th wedding anniversary.

Welcome to Our New Member

Please give a hearty welcome to our new member, Jack Buice, who joined our church on February 11th. Jack is the father of Amanda Lohec and has recently relocated to this area. We are so happy to have Jack as part of our church family!



Mother/Daughter Sugar 'n Spice Banquet

Saturday, March 31

4th Annual Mother/Daughter Banquet

Proceeds Benefit *The Bridge*

No Tickets Sold At The Door

Busy Bees News

If you love making crafts please join our Busy Bees who meet every Tuesday of the month except for the 4th Tuesday. We meet from 9a.m. - noon. We are making anything that we think can be sold at the Bazaar. This year, due to changes at the church, we are asking each person taking part to bring their own projects and collect their own supplies. If you want to be reimbursed for your supplies submit your receipt to the office.

Be sure your projects will be something that people will be ready to buy. We need to come up with more Christmas Projects. Last year we didn't have many.

See you on Tuesday.

-Donna Northrup

Birth Announcement

John and Ellen Sekumade are delighted to announce the birth of their son:

David James Adedayo Sekumade

Born: February 12
7 lbs. 2 oz.-20 1/2" long

David is the grandson of John and Mary Short.



MYF Upcoming Events

Here's what's coming up:

February 25 - MYF Parent Planning Meeting 5:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.
 March 9 - 10 - Brazos Bend Camping Trip-see Peter or Linda Hite
 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

Friendship Banquet Thanks

I would like to thank everyone who helped make this years banquet a success. Many of you pitched in with setup, decorations, food preparation and service, and cleaning up after the event was over. Special thanks goes to my wife Danna for her support and encouragement, Johnny and Kathy Lemaster, Peggy Smith (door prizes), Don and Sue Smith, Jerry Yeane, Ed and Janis Shields, Carroll Kuhlman, and Rob Bradley. Gary Warren provided two door prizes and Chuck Dyrud made the arrangements for the entertainment. Our youth did an excellent job of getting food and drink to the tables. Kelly Roper and another Boy Scout parent also helped in the kitchen. Thanks again to all that helped and all that attended the banquet.

-Ed Whorton

From The Secretary

Hello everyone. I just wanted to inform everybody that I have a new email address for church business, it is cokesburyumc@yahoo.com. Also, please do not forget that I have a HUGE pile of jackets and other items in the LOST AND FOUND. These items are kept in the supply closet, in my office. Please help me find a home for lost clothing and other miscellaneous items that I have found over the past year and a half. Any items not claimed will be donated to SeAM, children's sweaters and jackets will be given to CDO for the children to use when they go out to play. God bless and stay safe.

Diana Brown, Secretary

Save Time!

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

Thanks, Special People

Many people have been working hard to spruce up our church buildings and grounds. Have you noticed the neatly trimmed palmetto trees? And the beautiful new directional signs, both inside and outside the building? The carpets have been cleaned, and clutter cleared away. The hallways are clearer and easier to negotiate. Improvements have been gradual but steady. Many thanks to everyone who has worked long, hard, and mostly thankless hours to get all this done! God will bless you for it.

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 Yeane.

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

Wyatt/Stafford Circle News

The Wyatt/Stafford Circle met for a dinner and meeting on Thursday, February 15. There were 13 women present. We shared food made from recipes from the new UMW cookbook. The majority of the meeting was spent planning for the UMW Mother/Daughter Banquet. A theme and a menu were decided upon. Look for tickets to go on sale soon.

-Laura Bradley

Help Us Keep Our Purchases Straight

If anyone needs to be reimbursed by the church for a purchase they made, please fill out the new reimbursement report that is in the secretary's office. Please fill it out, sign and attach the receipts to the back and leave it in the office.

Also, please leave the delivery tickets (packing slips) of material that has been received and to be paid by the church. Examples are deliveries from Cokesbury Bookstore, material charged to the church's credit cards along with information of what budget category it will be charged to.

Sandy Hinson, Treasurer

We Welcome Our New Editor

We have an addition to our newspaper editorial team. Laurel Johnson has joined Rob Bradley and John Short in working on our Cokesbury Courier. You now have a third person to assist in getting your news published. Thanks, Laurel for your help.

Save A Heart With An AED

February is American Heart Month and a perfect time to begin to raise money for an AED for Cokesbury. AED stands for "automatic external defibrillator". As a Registered Nurse for many years, I have seen the importance of having an AED available. When a person has a heart attack or sudden cardiac arrest, CPR is started. But CPR by itself, can not bring back a heart that is not working. Although CPR is important as it keeps blood flowing to the heart and brain, what is needed is an AED, which will shock the non-functioning heart back into rhythm. In one study, over 300,000 people were saved with the machine.

To purchase an AED will cost \$1,800. I hope you will consider donating to this cause. There will be a poster with information available in the hallway outside the narthex. Please make out your checks to Cokesbury with the designation in the memo part AED. When the money has been raised, we will have training on how to use the AED. I am also an American Heart CPR instructor and will be leading the training on this piece of equipment.

So help to save the heart of a loved one. Please donate.

Danna Whorton, RN

Scouts Receive Awards

On Sunday, February 11, two Scouts received the God and Me Award, a religion award in Scouting. The scouts are shown below in the first row. Shown on the back row are Johnny Lemaster, Jeanette and Cary Piecznski



Mowing Starting

Our 2007 mowing season will soon be starting. Thanks to our 2006 crews: Carroll Kuhlman, Wendell Sullivan, Ed Shields, Kay and Jay Hyle, Suzanne and Doug Warren, and Laura and Rob Bradley.

Time required is usually once a month for 3-4 hours. Contact me if you would like to help.

-Rob Bradley



Treasurer's Report

Giving for February 4

Budgeted.....	\$11,224
Bond Fund.....	\$489
CDO Income.....	\$3,825
Designated Giving.....	\$843
Total Giving for 2/4.....	\$16,381

Giving for February 11

Budgeted.....	\$7,567
Bond Fund.....	\$160
CDO Income.....	\$2,240
Designated Giving.....	\$225
Total Giving for 2/11.....	\$10,192

Bank Balances As Of February 17

Operating Fund Balance.....	\$3,411
Bond Fund.....	\$1,499
Designated Savings.....	\$40,666
Total Cash.....	\$45,575

Apportionments have been paid through February. See article at left about reimbursement procedures.

-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)

We have started a new study focusing in the book of Mark. Who was Mark? What is different about his Gospel from the other three? Why does he spend half the book on the death and resurrection of Jesus? How does his message speak to us today? These and other questions are examined in this study.

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 doing a Lenten Study thru Easter using *Bound for Golgotha* by Randy Cross.

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.